

# STARS AND STRIPES<sup>®</sup>

**Low payoff  
for Knicks'  
high payroll**

Back page

New York guard Stephen Marbury



**Sun-soaked  
Europeans wonder  
where winter went**

Page 12



**Rapper Ludacris  
answers  
to his fans**

Page 21

Volume 63, No. 268 © SS 2005 G

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2005

50¢

# DODDS Internet filter blocks unsavory sites

Program keeps students from porn, gambling, chat rooms

Page 3

## California rocked



**Rescuers dig  
for mudslide  
survivors  
as storms  
cause chaos**

Page 13

A boulder some 25 feet high blocks both lanes of Topanga Canyon Road on Monday as electrical contractors fix broken power and communication lines in Malibu, Calif. No injuries were reported, but the road remains closed. The succession of storms that brought drenching rains to Southern California and snow to the north has been responsible for at least 19 deaths.

AP

## STARS &amp; STRIPES

COMING  
SOON

On Thursday

Dance the night  
away in Prague

Kenny Chesney

Personality Parade

Celebrity news  
from ParadeDon't miss a  
single issue.For home delivery,  
call DSN 349-8437STARS & STRIPES  
Your Hometown Newspaper

## TODAY IN STRIPES

Abby, Annie's Mailbox.....26  
American Roundup .....18-19  
Classified .....27-29  
Comics .....24-26  
Crossword .....25  
Faces .....21  
Horoscope .....22  
Letters .....24  
Opinion .....22-23  
Sports .....29-36  
TV listings .....20  
Weather .....17  
Your Money .....16

## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

## States

**Blade in shoe:** Federal prosecutors have dropped a charge filed against a man accused of trying to board an airplane in Hawaii with a blade hidden in one of his shoes, the man's attorney said Monday.

Randall Rustick, 33, of Fairfax, Va., was charged with attempting to board an aircraft with a concealed weapon after he was arrested Dec. 21 at Honolulu International Airport.

Rustick didn't know the three-inch blade was in his shoe, and had cooperated with prosecutors and the FBI, defense attorney Howard Luke said.

**Tulia drug charges:** Two jurors seated in the Texas perjury trial of a former undercover agent who sent dozens of blacks to prison on bogus drug charges have ties themselves to law enforcement.

One is an ex-police officer and the other, a woman, is related to an officer in Tulsa, the town where Tom Coleman made his discredited busts.

Coleman is accused of lying about his own arrest record in evidentiary hearings for four defendants in 2003. He could face up to 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine on each of three felony charges of aggravated perjury.

**Philadelphia mayor bugged:** Federal prosecutors have filed court papers detailing testimony they plan to present in an ongoing investigation that involved FBI wiretapping of Philadelphia city officials and their political supporters.

Authorities have declined to explain why they bugged Mayor John Street's office in 2003, and he has denied any wrongdoing.

However, according to court documents filed Monday, Street's former finance director, Janice Davis, will testify that the mayor "instructed her to favor firms recommended" by Ronald A. White, a close ally of Street's and a central figure in the probe.

The testimony detailed in the court papers will be presented at a trial scheduled to begin Jan. 18.

**Stain baby case:** The surviving daughters of a Texas woman accused of killing her 10-month-old baby by cutting off her arms could be returned to the custody of their father.

A tentative agreement was reached Monday to return the girls, ages 6 and 9, to their father, John Schlosser, but the agreement requires a judge's approval, The Dallas Morning News reported.

Dena Schlosser, a 35-year-old Plano housewife with a history of mental illness, was charged with capital murder Nov. 22 after she told a 911 operator that she had severed baby Margaret's arms.

**Medical malpractice reform:** Most Americans see health care and insurance costs as a more pressing problem than malpractice lawsuits, a survey says, although the Bush administration often cites litigation as a reason for high medical bills.

The Kaiser Family Foundation, a nonprofit organization that studies health care is-



**Fla. hurricanes:** Sailboats washed ashore by Hurricane Frances on Sept. 5 rest in a parking lot in Fort Pierce, Fla. While defending its handling of disaster assistance during the four hurricanes that hit Florida last year, the Federal Emergency Management Agency revealed Monday that it overpaid \$12 million in relief to 3,500 Floridians and is trying to recoup the money. The agency blamed the problem on a "computer glitch." "We've found that the majority of concerns raised regarding assistance provided to individuals in Florida... are not representative of widespread fraud," said Daniel Craig, director of FEMA's recovery division.

sues, and the Harvard School of Public Health said reducing malpractice jury awards ranked 11th on a list of 12 items people thought should be health care priorities for the president and Congress.

Named most often, by 63 percent of respondents, was lowering the cost of health care and insurance, followed closely by making Medicare more financially sound and increasing the number of Americans with insurance.

Bush is seeking a \$250,000 cap on non-economic damages that compensate for pain and suffering, saying large malpractice awards are driving up the costs of business and insurance and forcing doctors to give up their practices.

## World

**Ukrainian election:** Viktor Yanukovich, the losing candidate in Ukraine's presidential vote, said Tuesday that he would appeal to the Supreme Court over the announcement of opponent Viktor Yushchenko's electoral victory.

The final official tally of the Dec. 26 vote showed Yushchenko with 51.99 percent and the Kremlin-favored Yanukovich with 44.2 percent, the Central Election Commission announced late Monday, formally declaring Yushchenko the victor 15 days after the balloting.

**War crimes suspect:** A Bosnian Defense Ministry investigation found no evidence that war crimes suspect Ratko Mladic used Bosnian Serb military facilities to hide from the U.N. war crimes tribunal, contrary to

claims by the European Union peacekeepers in Bosnia.

British Major Gen. David Leakey said last month that peacekeepers had found evidence that Mladic hid in a Bosnian Serb Army-controlled underground bunker in eastern Bosnia as recently as last summer. The Hague, Netherlands-based court wants to try Mladic on charges of genocide and crimes against humanity for actions during Bosnia's 1992-1995 war.

## Military

**Navy landing field:** Internal Navy e-mail messages reveal a lack of objectivity in the choice of a proposed landing field in eastern North Carolina, attorneys trying to block the field said in newly filed court papers.

The skeptical e-mail messages — including one in which an environmental planner complained to a colleague of having to "reverse engineer" the process to justify the outcome — were not isolated excerpts as the Navy contends, opponents said.

Opponents want a federal judge in Raleigh to block the landing field until the Navy does another site selection and takes the required hard look at environmental effects on nearby Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge.

## War on terrorism

**Gitmo detainees:** Five Guantanamo Bay prisoners, including the last four British detainees and an Australian who allegedly knew of plans for the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks but was never charged, will be released within weeks by the United States, British and Australian officials said Tuesday.

The Pentagon later confirmed it was releasing four Britons and an Australian from Guantanamo, but it did not identify them.

Stories and photos from wire services



Yanukovich

## New Year... New Car

Ready for a replacement, or  
just need a second family car?

More rate discounts available  
No payment for 90 days

Contact us for details!

3.99<sup>\*\*\*</sup>

New, Used &  
Refinanced  
Autos

APPLY TODAY!

Service  
CREDIT UNION

www.servicecu.com  
34-Highway 2000  
908-678-3000

\*Rate shown is Annual Percentage Rate, accurate as of 01/11/05 and subject to change without notice. Rates and terms determined by the overall creditworthiness of each applicant. Must be a member of SCU or eligible for membership to apply. Rate shown reflects a basic point-to-point loan. Other available deposit and withdrawal of the automatic loan payment feature. Example: \$350 APR loan \$350 loan points - \$350 APR. Other available on current SCU loans which qualify for additional funds of \$25,000 or more. Not to be combined with other special discounted offers.

NCUA  
Member

# Sigonella DUIs down by more than half in '04

BY SANDRA JONTZ

Stars and Stripes

Call them bribes or call them incentives, but either way, efforts to curb drunken driving and related traffic incidents are working, officials at Naval Air Station Sigonella say.

Programs such as rewarding designated drivers with liberty passes and gift certificates helped cut the number of driving-under-the-influence incidents by more than half last year compared with 2003, base spokesman Lt. Steve Curry said.

In 2004, base officials logged 24 DUI inci-

dents, down from 58 the year before, Curry said.

"We have incentive programs like designating the designated driver program. If a designated driver comes back on base and tells the gate guard he's the designated driver, he gets a coupon good toward prizes," Curry said. Prizes include gift certificates and Morale, Welfare and Recreation coupons on service trips, for example.

The final tally of vehicle collisions also is down, Curry said. Safety officials reported 176 fewer collisions — a drop from 751 in 2003 to 575 in 2004.

"It's a lot less than the year before, but we still have a ways to go," Curry said.

One incident last year resulted in a death, and safety officials reported 96 injuries. The base has a population of 6,700, of which about 3,200 are active-duty service members. Of the Sigonella residents, the base has 3,669 registered drivers.

In the fall, base commander Capt. Joe Stuyvesant started a program to reward departments that had no alcohol-related incidents in a 96-day period, including those behind the wheel or a drunk-in-public charge. Departments with no incidents received a 96-hour liberty. The first staffers to earn the reward were those in Sigonella's Executive Administration and Weapons and Operations departments.

With safety messages and fliers blanketing the base and public service announcements on television and radio stations, officials also have reported an increase in peer pressure to drive sober, drive safe, and buckle up, Curry said.

At the beginning of 2004, officials instituted a slew of new traffic laws and programs to cut back on the then-20 percent increase in traffic accidents between 2002 and 2003. Drivers faced suspended privileges and traffic court appearances in addition to having points assessed on their driving records.

E-mail Sandra Jontz at: jontzs@mail.esr/pees.osd.mil



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTOPHER SOK/Stars and Stripes

## DODDS blocks seedy cyber sites

BY RICK EMERT

Stars and Stripes

BAMBERG, Germany — A tag team effort consisting of Internet filtering and monitoring by teachers is helping to keep Department of Defense Dependents Schools pupils away from the seedy side of cyberspace.

The Websense program allows schools to use filters to block sites that contain pornography, sadistic material, nudity, gambling, shopping and known hacker sites, according to Lenny Dobson, chief of Information Technology for DODDS-Europe.

Another program blocks pupils from entering chat rooms, he said.

"We can filter off certain materials, or block certain words," Dobson said.

"You have to be careful. In an education environment, where students have to do a lot of research, over-filtering would prevent them from doing that research."

If a Web site blocked by the filter software is needed for research, teachers can request that it be reviewed and unblocked, Dobson said.

Likewise, if a pupil happens upon a site that is inappropriate and should be blocked, Dobson can manually block it.

"It would be very difficult to filter all the different inappropriate Web sites," Dobson said.

Parrish Worrell, educational technologist at Bamberg Elementary School, said the filters have been effective in limiting children's searches to pages that are pertinent to the research they are doing.

"No filter is perfect, but the filters we use are pretty solid," he said. "I haven't heard of any kid who was able to sneak around it."

All pupils above the third grade and staff members have user names and passwords, and the Websense software creates a log that can show at any given time where a user went on the Internet, Dobson said.

The pupils and their parents also have to read and sign a computer use agreement.

"If a child violates that agreement, there could be administrative action and the student could be suspended from using the Internet for a couple of days," Dobson said. "Kids are curious, and they are always going to use their minds to look into things they don't know about. Usually, it's just a matter of sitting them down and talking to them about what they did."

An important aid to the Inter-

net filters is ensuring that a teacher is present when kids surf the Web, Worrell said.

"The real safety net is having a teacher in the room monitoring the use," Worrell said, adding that parents should also monitor children's Internet activity at home. "I've got high school kids, and I still monitor their Internet use. I'm not standing over their shoulder the whole time, but I do know when they are on the Internet."

"If the teacher is in the room, even if they aren't looking over the student's shoulder, there is a chance they will look over and see the student's doing something they are not supposed to. That is a real deterrent."

In addition to the filters and the teacher's presence to keep children away from inappropriate Web sites, DODDS-Europe also has implemented a new curriculum from the nonprofit organization iSAFE America that teaches pupils about Internet etiquette and ethics and such safety concerns as cyber predators, identity theft and computer viruses. Teachers in DODDS-Europe are expected to complete training on the new curriculum by May, according to Frank O'Gara, DODDS-Europe spokesman.

E-mail Rick Emert at: emerrt@mail.esr/pees.osd.mil

## Seabee fourth to die at Rota since Jan. 1

BY BEN MURRAY

Stars and Stripes

NAVAL STATION ROTA, Spain — A 23-year-old Seabee on a six-month deployment to Rota died last week from complications stemming from a brain aneurysm, the Navy reported Tuesday.

Construction Electrician Constructionman Mario Gaspar of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4, home-ported in Port Huemene, Calif., was pronounced dead Thursday after emergency surgery at the Cadiz Medical Center in Cadiz, Spain. He had suffered an aneurysm on Jan. 3, according to a Navy release.

Gaspar, a Seabee since Jan. 1, is the fourth Rota-based person to die in a rash of unrelated incidents around the naval port since Jan. 1.

Two sailors died on New Year's Day. Petty Officer 2nd Class Roland S. Atunio was killed in a single-car crash near the base, and Petty Officer 3rd Class Dexter C. Orasing fell unconscious on the way to a party and could not be revived. On Jan. 6, the same day Gaspar died, Noelia Ruiz Martinez, a wife of a U.S. servicemember stationed in Rota, succumbed to injuries sustained in a Dec. 30 car crash.

A memorial service for Gaspar is tentatively planned for Saturday, but details had not been set by Tuesday, a Seabee spokeswoman said.

E-mail Ben Murray at: murrayb@mail.esr/pees.osd.mil



Gaspar

## Congratulations to Emory S. Land crew



JONATHAN R. KULP/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Adm. Michael G. Mullen, commander of U.S. Naval Forces Europe, speaks to sailors on board the USS Emory S. Land in Sigonella, Sicily. Topics varied from liberty policies to an increase in funding for Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities. Mullen closed by congratulating the ship's crew on receiving the 2004 Battle Efficiency (Battle "E") award. The award is earned through a series of inspections and exercises.

# Two more airmen are sentenced in Aviano drug bust

BY KENT HARRIS

Stars and Stripes

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy — Two more airmen have been court-martialed in the biggest drug case in base history.

Senior Airman Justin Marshbank, assigned to the 603rd Air Control Squadron, was found guilty on cocaine charges in a summary court-martial Monday. He's the 10th airman to be tried as a result of a four-month investigation that ended in December 2003.

Marshbank received one of the toughest sentences yet: 15 months of confinement, reduction in rank to E-1 and a bad-conduct discharge.

He was found guilty of attempt to possess cocaine, use of the

drug on diverse occasions and distribution of cocaine multiple times.

In a separate court-martial last week, Airman 1st Class Michelle Lewis, assigned to the 31st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, was found guilty of using cocaine. She was sentenced to reduction in rank to E-1 and a bad-conduct discharge.

Both cases resulted from an investigation by the 31st Security Forces Squadron and Office of Special Investigations Detachment 531 that netted about a dozen suspects. The sting culminated in the detention of a dozen people on base. Some of them lived off base. All were enlisted.

Brig. Gen. Mike Worden, the 31st commander at the time, then ordered a dorm-by-dorm search

## Hashish charges

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy — A pair of airmen assigned to the 31st Security Forces Squadron were found guilty last week of hashish charges in summary courts-martial.

Airman 1st Class Frank Shannon was found guilty of use and possession of hashish, failure to obey an order and making a false official statement. He was sentenced to 30 days in jail, reduction in rank to E-1 and forfeiture of two-thirds pay during his confinement.

Airman 1st Class Corey Black was found guilty of use and possession of hashish and failure to obey an order. He was sentenced to 27 days in jail, reduction in rank to E-1 and forfeiture of two-thirds pay during confinement.

From staff reports

on base. No more cocaine was found during the search.

Three more airmen are likely to face courts-martial in the next few months as a result of the investigation.

E-mail Kent Harris at: harris@mail.stripses.osd.mil

## Handshake for the wounded



TODD GOODMAN/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Lance Cpl. Stacy Alexander of 1st Battalion, 7th Marines Weapons Company, who is being treated at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany for wounds received in Iraq, talks with Marine Sgt. Maj. Wayne R. Bell of the 1st Marine Division operating in Alamar Province in Iraq. Several Marine sergeant majors visited wounded servicemembers on Monday.

## Memorial service planned for worker

A memorial service is being planned for a U.S. Army civilian employee who was killed Friday night in a traffic accident in Germany.

David E. Johnson, 54, of Colorado Springs, Colo., was a property boat officer with the U.S. Army Materiel Command Field Support Brigade-Europe, at Seckenheim, Germany. The accident occurred on Autobahn A-5 near Weierstadt-Gräfenhausen. German police and U.S. authorities are investigating.

Johnson is survived by his wife, Beverly Johnson, of Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico.

## Cross-cultural activist Jeanne Jones dies

The woman who led the way in fostering better German-American relations in the 1960s with the Kontakt program died Jan. 6 of natural causes in her home near Heidelberg, Germany.

A funeral for Jeanne Jones, 82, will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at the city cemetery in the town where she lived, Hirschbuschheim.

Jones, who was also a public affairs specialist with U.S. Army Europe for about 30 years, was considered the mother of Kontakt, according to a statement issued by USAREUR. Kontakt clubs focus on bringing together American soldiers and local German citizens for cross-cultural activities. Jones wanted Germans and Americans to become better friends through cultural awareness, the statement said.

Jones was the original author of USAREUR Regulation 360-90, which covers Kontakt clubs in Germany. She also spearheaded the short-lived Cross-Cultural Program directly after the fall of the Berlin Wall that helped forge better relations between people living in the former East and Germans and Americans living in the West.

Jones is survived by her children, Rick Stanley, 60, of Idaho; Ted Stanley, 58, of Massachusetts; Alex Jones, 47,

# Bulgaria scouted as likely U.S. host

## General tours nation's military sites

The Associated Press

SOFIA, Bulgaria — The commander of U.S. and NATO forces in Europe, Gen. James Jones, arrived Tuesday in Bulgaria to inspect military sites that could host American troops as part of a Pentagon plan to create new, flexible bases in Eastern Europe.

After talks with Defense Minister Nikolai Stoyanov, a ministry spokesman quoted Jones as saying that the United States was interested in three military sites — an air field, a sea port and a training ground.

According to Vladimir Prelevov, the spokesman, Jones said one of the sites could be used as "a training facility for NATO's rapid reaction force."

Jones is expected to tour two military sites on Wednesday — the air field of Bezmer and the

Novo Selo training area, which have already been identified as possible locations for future U.S. bases in Bulgaria.

Bezmer and Novo Selo are located in central-eastern Bulgaria, some 160 miles east of the capital, Sofia, and 56 miles west of the Black Sea port of Burgas.

Bulgaria, a staunch U.S. ally in the Balkans, allowed U.S.-led forces to use the military airport near Burgas during the campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Bulgaria also contributed forces to the coalition in Iraq and has helped seven deaths.

Bulgaria, which joined NATO last April along with six other ex-communist nations, has declared its willingness to provide training grounds for U.S. troops.

U.S. officials have also said they could use Bulgarian sites to deploy troops on rotational training tours, but the Pentagon has not made a final decision yet.

# GI involved in car crash that killed two Germans

BY STEVE LEWIER

Stars and Stripes

WÜRZBURG, Germany — A 30-year-old 3rd Corps Support Command soldier and his family escaped injury Sunday evening in a car crash near Kitzingen that killed two Germans and badly injured four others, according to 3rd COSCOM and German news reports.

A Ford pickup truck driven by the unidentified soldier, aged 11 and 8, also was unharmed, the newspaper said.

The truck collided with an eastbound Volkswagen Passat, forcing it into the path of a westbound VW van, the newspaper said.

A woman, 37, and her 9-year-old daughter, riding in the Passat, were pronounced dead at the scene, the newspaper reported, while the 34-year-old driver, another adult and a 5-month-old girl suffered severe injuries. A 48-year-old passenger in the van also was badly hurt but the driver, her 53-year-old husband, wasn't injured.

The soldier's 28-year-old wife and their two children, ages 11 and 8, also were unharmed, the newspaper said.

The collision blocked the B8 in both directions and the A7 Reppendorf exit for about three hours. U.S. military police and local German police are jointly investigating the crash, according to a 3rd COSCOM news release.

E-mail Steve Lewier at: lewiers@mail.stripses.osd.mil

of Karlsruhe, Germany; and Philippa Jones, 43, of Bochum, Germany.

For more information, call the USAREUR Public Affairs Office at 06221-57-8934 or 06221-57-6647.

## Navy: Submarine hit natural formation

HAGATNA, Guam — A U.S. nuclear submarine that ran aground over the weekend appears to have struck a natural feature on the floor of the Pacific Ocean, a Navy spokesman said.

Lt. Cmdr. Jeff Davis said Monday that an initial investigation had turned up nothing to indicate the USS San Francisco struck anything but a large rock, land or other natural feature as it conducted underwater operations about 350 miles south of Guam.

The ship "struck something very hard and did an emergency surface," Davis said.

One sailor was killed and at least 23 others suffered injuries, the Navy said. The submarine has a crew of 137.

From staff and wire reports



# Allawi: Some areas of Iraq too unsafe for voters

BY NICK WADHAMS  
The Associated Press

**BAHGDAD** — Prime Minister Ayad Alawi said Tuesday that some areas of Iraq will probably be too unsafe to take part in the Jan. 30 elections, his first public acknowledgment that the government would not be able to exert control in key areas controlled by insurgents.

Allawi promised, however, to increase the size of the army in the face of a bloody insurgency, whose latest victims included 13 Iraqis killed by two bombings.

Allawi also spoke by telephone Tuesday with President Bush for about 10 minutes to reaffirm the importance of holding the elections as scheduled, the White House said.

White House press secretary Scott McClellan said that in the phone call, the two leaders underscored the importance of going ahead with the election as planned.

"This was a discussion to talk about the ongoing preparations for the upcoming elections," McClellan said. "Both leaders reiterated the importance of moving forward on the date set by the Independent Iraqi Election Commission of Jan. 30."

In a news conference, Allawi said the government had allocated \$2.2 billion to expand the army from 100,000 to 150,000 troops and provide it with new weaponry. Iraq's armed forces are poorly trained and often



In Baghdad on Tuesday, an Iraqi police officer walks past a poster advertising this month's general elections. Prime Minister Ayad Allawi acknowledged Tuesday that some areas of Iraq likely would be too unsafe to participate in the balloting for a constitutional assembly.

under-equipped, making them an easy target for insurgents who want to scuttle the elections.

He acknowledged that some areas of Iraq likely would be too unsafe to participate in the landmark balloting for a constitutional assembly. The country's volatile Anbar province west of Baghdad and areas in the north around Mosul have seen little preparation for the vote.

"Hostile forces are trying to hamper this event and to inflict damage and harm on the march and the guarantee for the participation of all in the elections," Allawi said. "Certainly, there will be some pockets that will not be able to participate in the elections for these reasons, but we think that it will not widespread."

Allawi is a candidate in the election and has been increasingly visible in recent days. The news conference was his second in as many days, and he stood before several Iraqi flags and signs that read "Security and Safety First."

Meanwhile, violence across Iraq continued. A roadside bomb hit a minibus full of Iraqis in Yussifiyah, 10 miles south of Baghdad, said the director of the town's hospital, Dawoud al-Taie.

Al-Taie said the bomb exploded several minutes after a U.S. convoy passed, but there was no indication the convoy was the intended target.

A suicide car bomber who targeted a police headquarters in Tikrit killed six people, U.S. military spokesman Maj. Neal O'Brien said, and police officers who spoke on condition of anonymity said 12 were wounded.

Two militant groups claimed responsibility for the Tikrit attack. In statements posted on a Web site, the Ansar al-Sunna Army group said it parked a car filled with explosives near the station and then blew it up, while al-Qaida in Iraq, of Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, said one of its members carried out the "martyrdom attack."

Both statements could not be independently verified but such contradicting statements are rare.

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Monday, at least 1,355 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,065 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is three higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. Monday.

The British military has reported 76 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 16; Ukraine, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,217 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 956 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ A roadside bomb destroyed an armored vehicle Monday in southwest Baghdad, killing two U.S. soldiers.

The latest identifications reported by the Defense Department:

■ Army Spc. Dwayne J. McFarlane Jr., 20, Cass Lake, Minn., died Sunday in Baghdad, when his patrol was hit by an explosive; assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), Fort Carson, N.Y.

■ Marine Cpl. Joseph E. Fite, 23, Round Rock, Texas, killed Sunday in Anbar province; assigned to the Marine Forces Reserve's 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Austin, Texas.

## DoDDS Students and Parents

Tune in to Power Network Radio to talk to recent DoDDS graduates about getting ready for college!

Wednesday, January 12th at 9:00am CET

Call with your questions:  
DSN 389-4590 or CIV +49 (0) 621 46085 590  
or email: [openline@afneurope.net](mailto:openline@afneurope.net)



## Ukraine parliament votes to pull its troops from Iraq

BY ALEKSANDAR VASOVIC  
The Associated Press

**KIEV, Ukraine** — The Ukrainian parliament called Tuesday for an immediate withdrawal of the nation's peacekeepers from Iraq. The move was nonbinding but clearly reflected growing national dismay over the mission.

The parliament's call came two days after eight Ukrainian soldiers died in an explosion at an ammunition dump in Iraq. The blast was reported as an accident, but a top commander later raised suspicions that it could have been a terrorist action.

On Monday, President Leonid Kuchma ordered the foreign and defense ministries to develop a plan for withdrawing Ukrainian troops from Iraq within the first half of 2005.

But the parliament, in a 308-0 vote, called on Kuchma to accelerate the process by issuing an immediate decree on withdrawal.

There was no immediate response from Kuchma to the parliament move and Valeriy Chayur, an analyst with the Kiev-based Razumkov think-tank, said he expected the final decision on a pull-out would come only after a new president takes office.

U.S. State Department spokes-

man Adam Ereli on Monday called Ukraine an important supporter of efforts in Iraq and said officials expect any change in troop levels to be coordinated with coalition forces "in a measured way."

"I would reject any notion that anybody is running scared in this matter," he said. "What is done in the future should in no way detract from what has been contributed in the past, which is brave and courageous service in support of a noble cause."

Department of Defense spokesman Lt. Col. Barry Venable said no specific plans have been made yet to deal with the withdrawal.

"There have been coalition partners who have departed before, and there are ways to cover the Ukrainian forces' duties," he said. "We'll make adjustments."

Ukrainian opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko, who has supported a withdrawal, on Monday was declared winner of the presidential election, although it is not clear when he might take office.

Defense Ministry spokesman Andriy Lysenko said the military has "an approximate plan for the withdrawal, which would last about two months."

Stripes reporter Leo Shane III contributed to this report from Washington.

## Combat hospital locates to new home

BY STEVE LIEWER

Stars and Stripes

The 67th Combat Support Hospital has moved its patient wards into a pair of buildings at Forward Operating Base Speicher in Tikrit, Iraq, the hospital's commander said Tuesday.

Lt. Col. Karen Gausman said the two former Iraqi air force barracks had been used to house 4th Infantry Division soldiers during the first Operation Iraqi Freedom rotation last year but had been abandoned when 1st Infantry Division troops took over the base in February.

The hospital formerly had been housed in a series of interconnected tents on the other side of the base. Patients' rooms will be in the two buildings, which are connected by a covered walkway, Gausman said, while operating rooms, laboratories and the pharmacy remain next door in tents.

The new hospital is near the main dining facility, gym and post exchange.

"We're much closer to all the amenities," she said.

Gausman said the site was identified about six months ago.

Contractors began renovating the buildings in September and completed the work just after Christmas. She said the new emergency room opened Dec. 29 and received its first patient within half an hour. The 67th CSH hosted a grand-opening ceremony Jan. 4. Two new helipads also were built nearby.

The chief advantages to the new buildings, Gausman said, are cleanliness and security. It is difficult to keep dust out of tents, and canvas offers no protection against mortars that sometimes are fired onto the base.

"[The new buildings] do provide a concrete structure, so we're not running for the bunkers with our patients," she said.

The 67th CSH deployed to Iraq from its home base in Würzburg, Germany, in January 2004. It is scheduled to return during the next few weeks. The unit also opened a \$450,000 hospital at Forward Operating Base Marez in Mosul in November, according to a news release from the Multinational Force Iraq. That hospital provided valuable care a month later, when a suicide bomber detonated explosives in the chow hall at Marez, killing 22 people and injuring 69 others.

E-mail Steve Liewer at: [liewer@starsandstripes.osd.mil](mailto:liewer@starsandstripes.osd.mil)

# GLs hope for best, expect worst in raids

BY JASON CHUDY

Stars and Stripes

BAGHDAD — It doesn't matter how good the intelligence is, soldiers entering a house during a raid say they can't know what's on the other side of the front door.

When soldiers of Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment raided a house in a west-central Baghdad neighborhood Monday, they were expecting the worst. Intelligence reports stated there were more than a dozen heavily armed insurgents inside.

Instead of fighters, there were families. Soldiers quickly moved them all out of the house, and searched it and the surrounding grounds, finding only three loaded AK-47 magazines, but no assault rifle.

Most of the unit's soldiers have raided only a few houses, but the Battery B platoon leader, 1st Lt. Dave Lucas, has more than a few under his ammo belt. He estimates he's either raided or searched more than 1,000 homes



JASON CHUDY/Stars and Stripes

Pfc. Billy Bailey, from left, and Staff Sgt. Joey Washington prepare to enter a room as 1st Lt. Dave Lucas opens a door in a house being raided by soldiers from Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment. Soldiers never know what's on the other side of the doors when they raid or search Iraqi houses.

While assigned as the fire support officer for Company A, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment.

He said that most of the raids end up without gunfire from either side.

"Most of the time when they've got families in there, they're not surprised," he said about raid suspects. "They don't want us to fire with their families there."

"Everyone except one went quickly," he said of his raid experiences. A suspect tried to run, but was caught without shots being fired.

Despite the odds being in favor of an uneventful search or raid, soldiers say they still must prepare for the worst case scenario.

"You're always going into the house nervous, always nervous," said Staff Sgt. Joey Washington, 25, of Raleigh, N.C. "Well, I wouldn't call it nervous, I'd call it anxious."

"From the beginning, you never know," said Sgt. David MacDonald, 24, of Memphis, Tenn. "You've got to be prepared for anything."

"I'm always hoping the intel is wrong," he added. "If I can go through the whole thing without firing a shot, that's OK."

E-mail Jason Chudy at: [chudy@starsandstripes.osd.mil](mailto:chudy@starsandstripes.osd.mil)

## 31st MEU members say goodbye to veteran Marine

Marines from the Okinawa-based 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit held an unusual gathering Monday night, performing a retirement ceremony at an air base hangar in Iraq.

The ceremony honored Gunnery Sgt. Christopher W. Burnett, who officially retires July 1 after 20 years in the Marine Corps. But Burnett didn't want to spend the last year of his "twilight tour" away from the unit, so he pressed to go with the unit to Iraq.

"It took me a while to get here, but I'm here," Burnett said in an emotional farewell to his fellow Marines in Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 265, based at Al Asad.

"I'm excited about leaving, don't get me wrong. But I'll miss you all. And I'll be thinking about you."

Following a flag ceremony, tape recordings of "Auld Lang Syne," "Anchors Aweigh" and "The U.S. Marine Corps Hymn" were played as the Marines stood at attention.

After the retirement ceremony, Burnett went to pack his final belongings; he was hoping to head to Okinawa on Tuesday to start the process of officially separating from the service.

### A long shot

A sniper from the 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment has been credited with the longest confirmed kill in Iraq, according to a Marine Corps news release.

Sgt. Herbert B. Hancock, chief scout sniper of Sniper Platoon,

Company B, shot at four insurgents from 1,650 yards away during the November assault on Fallujah, the Marines said. Hancock, a 35-year-old native of Bryan, Texas, is a reservist like the rest of the 1st Battalion, 23rd Marines.

In his civilian life, he's a police officer, but has been a Marine sniper since 1992.

According to the Marine Corps press release, Hancock and his spotter, Cpl. Geoffrey L. Flowers, were sent into Fallujah on Nov. 11 to find the source raining down mortar fire on their company command post.

After moving through a series of buildings to the edge of the Euphrates River,

Hancock and Flowers set up atop a large building, spotting the mortar teams about 1,000 yards away. Hancock shot at least four in-

surgents who were firing the mortars, before the Marines' own counterfire was called in on the positions.

"One had a black [outfit] on," Hancock said, according to the release. "I shot and he dropped. Right in front of him another got up on his knees looking to try and find out where we were, so I dropped him, too. After that, our mortars just hammered the position."

The snipers measured the distance by comparing an eight-digit map grid of their own position with the eight-digit map grid fired upon by the Marine mortar teams. It came out at 1,650 yards.

Hancock made the shots with an M40A3 sniper rifle, the Marines said.



JOSEPH GIORNONO/Stars and Stripes

Gunnery Sgt. Christopher W. Burnett of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit bids his squad mates farewell at a retirement ceremony in his honor Monday night at Al Asad.

### Colonel running back

When Spc. Phil Prodehl of Headquarters Platoon, Company B, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment was chosen to represent the unit at the battalion soldier of the month board, he knew the panel members would ask questions ranging from the unit's mission and rules of engagement to first aid and land navigation.

The board also asks about the unit's history, the regimental crest and the 1st Cavalry Division's patch.

Prodehl had been studying for the board, but military mission and history weren't the only thing on his mind. It's football playoff time.

When a board member asked him who designed the division's patch, he knew it was Col. Ben Dorsey and his wife at Fort Bliss, Texas, many years back.

But that's not what came out of his mouth.

"At the board for some unconscious reason, I said, 'Colonel and Mrs. Dorsey Levins,'" he said.

Dorsey Levins is a running back with the playoff contender Philadelphia Eagles.

"They asked me to repeat myself a couple of times," he said, "and I said it a couple of times."

He didn't catch on to what he was saying until he noticed a couple of board members with smiles on their faces.

Though the board didn't tell him whether it credited him with a correct answer, he did come in second out of all the candidates.

Stars and Stripes reporters Joseph Giordano and Jason Chudy contributed to this report. Giordano is currently embedded with Marines near Fallujah, Iraq, and can be reached at: [giordano@starsandstripes.osd.mil](mailto:giordano@starsandstripes.osd.mil). Chudy is embedded with the 10th Mountain Division near Baghdad and can be reached at: [chudy@starsandstripes.osd.mil](mailto:chudy@starsandstripes.osd.mil)

# GIs try to make filling up easier for Iraqis

BY JASON CHUDY

Stars and Stripes

**BAGHDAD** — The price of gasoline in this oil-rich nation's capital isn't only measured in dinars. It is also measured in hours.

Throw in a little corruption, inefficiency and insufficient infrastructure, and that price per liter skyrockets for the average Iraqi.

At the gas station on southern Baghdad's al Daura road, for example, a tank of gas that costs the equivalent of a handful of dollars involves lines that can produce waits of more than 20 hours.

And it's not just the Iraqis who are involved in this day-to-day struggle. Nearly every daylight patrol of Company B of the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment from Fort Hood, Texas, involves the soldiers inserting themselves in the fight with black markers, gas station operators, security and even Iraqi police.

"I'd say 20 percent of their time — a little less than an hour out of



Sgt. Kortney Clemons, a medic with Company B, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, pumps gas for an Iraqi man at the al Daura gas station in southern Baghdad. Soldiers from the company took control of the gas station and pumped free gas for a few hours before returning the station to civilian control.

JASON CHUDY/Stars and Stripes

every patrol," company commander Capt. Dave Maxwell said when asked how much his soldiers spend dealing with fuel problems.

Iraqis, he said, use petroleum products for many things: kerosene for heating; propane for heating and cooking; and gasoline for automobiles and electric-

ity generators.

"It's important to them, basically every aspect of their lives," he said. "This can really put a guy in a bad mood if he doesn't have the things he needs to take care of his family."

Many of the problems don't come from a lack of gasoline, but rather from a range of problems including a limited number of gas stations.

"For an area that has this many people in it, it has only one gas station," said Maxwell. "[In the United States] an area this size would have 20 gas stations. They don't have the infrastructure to distribute gas fast enough."

For a few hours Wednesday, gasoline distribution took a turn for the better at the al Daura station.

Dozens of cars were lined up outside, waiting for gas, as they do nearly every day. Others trying to beg or bribe their way in line caused traffic jams along a main road through the area. And black marketers just to the east caused even more traffic.

Some Company B soldiers were given the order to straighten things out.

The black marketers were chased away and their gasoline containers given to passing vehicles. Then the soldiers moved onto the station itself, closing it down for a few minutes to clear all the traffic, then letting in a handful of cars every few minutes. The soldiers themselves started pumping gas — at no cost — to smiling, grateful drivers.

Some car owners had to push their vehicles up to the pump, but the logjam was eventually lessened, and for a few hours this Baghdad neighborhood had an efficiently run gas station.

The soldiers, well aware that station workers often overcharge motorists or charge them a fee just to get in line, felt no guilt over giving away the gas.

When the soldiers returned the next morning to survey the station for future improvements, dozens of cars waited in line, black marketers sold their fuel along the shoulder and traffic was again all jammed up.

Business, it seemed, was back to normal.

E-mail Jason Chudy at: [chudy@mail.estripes.osd.mil](mailto:chudy@mail.estripes.osd.mil)

## Live on the Economy?

Did you know that Stars and Stripes delivers to addresses on the local economy?

We are expanding our off-base delivery all the time.

Call today and find out if you live within our delivery area.



Get the news that affects your life and the lives of your family. Every day.

**STARS AND STRIPES**  
Your Hometown Newspaper

customerservice@mail.estripes.osd.mil  
CIV: +49 (0)6155-601-262 • DSN 349-8262



## Rhein BMW presents Valentine's Day Greetings Brought to you by Stars and Stripes

A great way to show you care. Surprise them with a Valentine's Day Greeting!

Messages in the Mid-East edition begin at no charge! Messages in the European edition start at \$29

\*Five lucky winners, chosen at random will receive an official BMW-Williams Formula One Team Jacket

Visit [www.stripes.com](http://www.stripes.com). Click on the link for Valentine's Day

Greetings publish in Stars and Stripes on February 14!

Messages for the Mid-East edition will also publish on [www.stripes.com](http://www.stripes.com) beginning 11 Feb

Deadline for messages 27 Jan 05, Drawing on 14 Feb 05

\*No purchase necessary to win.

## Curbing black market gas

Some Iraqis are cashing in on the city's limited number of gas stations.

Black marketers are seen on many streets and highways in the city, with their cut-off plastic bottle top for a funnel and large plastic containers full of gasoline.

They can charge whatever they want for the gasoline, but usually sell it around double the average rate. Though prices vary, it's still much less than the U.S. average of \$1.80 per gallon.

"I see it as capitalism," said Capt. Dave Maxwell, commander of Company B, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment. "They're trying to feed their families."

But many of these energy entrepreneurs run afoul of the mil-

itary because they cause traffic jams that restricts military and civilian traffic.

Insurgents will also set up black market stations along the main routes to gather information on military traffic or to set up roadside bombs.

"The problem with them in high traffic areas is that they're used by insurgents who are watching patrols or are setting [improvised explosive devices]," Maxwell said. "They'll set up — place IEDs, then move 400 meters down the road."

So when patrols come across the gas vendors along the main routes, they are chased from the location and many times the gasoline will be given — free of charge — to passing motorists, temporarily alleviating the problem.

— Jason Chudy



# BEST BUYS

**ON SALE January 13 to February 9**



\$1.60

DORITOS® Tortilla Chips 11 oz.

**\$1.29**  
BAKED! DORITOS® Tortilla Chips 8 oz.



MUNCHIES™ Snack Mix 9.25 oz.

\$1.09



**FritoLay** PATRON SWEEPSTAKES  
MADE POSSIBLE BY  
FRITO-LAY, INC.

Food for the fun of it!

## 3 Minute Shopping Spree Sweepstakes

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. MAKING A PURCHASE DOES NOT IMPROVE YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING, VOID WHERE PROHIBITED. YOU MUST BE AN AUTHORIZED "OVERSEAS-ONLY" CARDHOLDER WHO IS A LEGAL U.S. CITIZEN OR LEGAL RESIDENT 18 YEARS OLD OR OLDER, AND EITHER ACTIVE OR RETIRED MILITARY PERSONNEL, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD) CIVILIAN WITH COMMISSARY PRIVILEGES OR A DEPENDENT OF ONE OF THE ABOVE, STATIONED OR LIVING OUTSIDE OF THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES AS OF JANUARY 1, 2006 (SWEEPSTAKES EXCLUDES PERSONS WHO ARE STATIONED OR LIVING IN THE CONTINENTAL U.S., HAWAII, ALASKA, AND PUERTO RICO).

- [illegible]

- [illegible]

- [illegible]

- B. **SPONSOR:** Friths-Leg, Inc. 7701 Legacy Drive, Plano, Texas, USA 75004-4099.

BAKED! DORITOS, COOLER RANCH, DORITOS, DORITOS Logo, FOOD FOR THE FUN OF IT!, FRITO LAY, FRITO LAY Logo, MUNCHIES, and MUNCHIES Logo are trademarks used by Frito-Lay, Inc. © 2005 Frito-Lay North America, Inc.



### "THREE MINUTE SHOPPING SPREE SWEEPSTAKES"

Official Entry Form

Sponsored by Frito-Lay, Inc.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age:

Base Name:

Phone Number:

Disclaimer: ANY Per

must be placed in the

.....





# BEST BUYS

**ON SALE January 13 to February 9**



## Listerine 1.0 L.

Citrus, Cool Mint,  
FreshBurst,  
Original, Tartar Control

Reg. \$3.99 - \$5.00 IRC Coupon\*

**You Save 13%**  
**\$3.49**

\*Coupons are available via take one pads in store while supplies last.



## Lubriderm 16 oz.

Advanced Therapy, Daily Moisture,  
Daily Moisture - Fragrance Free,  
Sensitive Skin Therapy,  
Skin Nourishing and  
Daily Moisture with SPF 15

Reg. \$6.33 - \$1.00 IRC Coupon\*

**You Save 16%**  
**\$5.33**

Now Available at Your DeCA Commissaries\*

**GNC Live Well.**

**Popular Weight Management / Sports  
Nutrition Products to Help You Succeed.**

\*Now Available at these Commissaries:

VOGELWEH  
BAUMHOLDER  
RAMSTEIN  
WURZBURG  
VILSECK  
GRAFENWOHR  
YONGSAN  
KADENA

# Reach Your Goals

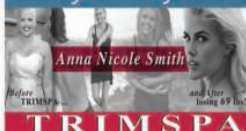
## Sports Nutrition

**NO2**  
HEMO-DILATOR™

Generates a PERPETUAL PUMP™  
Heightens Blood Circulation  
Augments Sprint/Endurance  
Accelerates Time to Peak Power  
Delays Fatigue

EXTRA STRENGTH FORMULA  
EXTENDED RELEASE FORMULA

## Weight Management



## Weight Management

Helps convert carbohydrates  
into energy- not fat!

**CARB CUTTER**

Dietary Supplement  
90 Tablets  
**MAXIMIZE ANY LOW CARB DIET**

## Sports Nutrition



## Weight Management

NEW & IMPROVED  
Extra Strength Formula  
**Xenadrine EFX**

EPHEDRINE FREE  
Rapid Fat Loss Catalyst™  
Patented Lipolysis Stimulator proven to  
help burn more fat

90 TABLETS (DIETARY SUPPLEMENT) 90-CAPSULES

The information on this page is authorized for commissary shoppers only. These are extra low prices on selected items available only in your commissary for a limited time. Make sure to look at the top of the page for sale dates. Sometimes, because of product distribution or locations of stores, a few of the prices on this page may not be available at the advertised price. The commissary is not responsible for errors on this page or in any commercially funded advertising. The commissary is not required to offer the prices advertised here if the price shown is in error. This advertising is not sponsored or paid for by the Defense Commissary Agency or the Department of Defense.

# Syrian inmate testifies in Abu Ghraib abuse trial

BY T.A. BADGER

The Associated Press

FORT HOOD, Texas — A Syrian inmate at Abu Ghraib said Army Sgt. Charles Graner Jr. was the Baghdad prison's primary torturer who laughed while physically abusing him and threatened to kill him more than once.

Amin al-Sheikh, testifying via videotaped deposition shown in court Tuesday, said Graner also made him eat pork and drink alcohol, in violation of his Muslim faith, and that he listened through his cell wall while Graner and other Americans forced a Yemeni prisoner to eat from a toilet.

Graner is the first soldier accused in the Abu Ghraib scandal to go on trial, and prosecutors allege he was the ringleader of the abuse. Three guards from the 372nd Military Police Company have pleaded guilty to abusing detainees.

Asked if Graner appeared to enjoy hurting him, al-Sheikh said through an interpreter: "He was laughing... He laughed. He was whistling. He was singing."

Graner, a reservist, is charged with conspiracy to maltreat detainees, two counts of assault, dereliction of duty and committing indecent acts. He faces up to 17½ years in a military prison if the jury of four Army officers and six enlisted men convict him on all counts. Testimony began Monday.

Al-Sheikh said he went to Iraq in 2003 to fight U.S.-led forces, and he was taken to Abu Ghraib after being captured with AK-47 assault rifles, grenades and bomb-making material.

While being kept at a tent camp next to Abu Ghraib, al-Sheikh said, he was wounded in the leg and chest in a shootout with Americans after he obtained a handgun from an Iraqi guard because he feared for his life.

He said Graner, whom he described as the "primary torturer," jumped on his injured leg and struck it with a collapsible stick.

That is the basis for one of the assault charges. On another occasion, he said, Graner handcuffed him to his cell door with his arms behind his back for eight hours.

Graner also on different occasions accompanied a U.S. soldier who urinated on him, al-Sheikh said. Another American threatened to rape him, he said.

Under defense questioning, al-Sheikh said Graner at times worked with Americans who were interrogating him at Abu Ghraib.

The defense maintains that Graner and other soldiers were ordered by military and civilian intelligence officers to soften up detainees for questioning, and that they had no choice but to obey.

Al-Sheikh said interrogators known as "Steve" and "Mike" made it clear that he would be roughed up by Graner if he did not cooperate.

Al-Sheikh conceded that he did not see Graner and others making the Yemeni prisoner eat from the toilet, but he said it was clear that was happening from what he heard.

Another videotaped deposition from Iraq was expected before prosecutors wrapped up their case Tuesday afternoon. The defense would then start with its witnesses.

## Witness: CIA and SEALs beat Baghdad detainees

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — A former Navy SEAL, says he saw fellow SEALs and CIA officials kick, choke and eye-gouge detainees at a U.S. military base in Iraq.

The former SEAL testified at a military hearing Monday that he saw "interrogation by means of abuse" take place at Camp Jenny Pozzi, the SEAL base at Baghdad International Airport. He said a prisoner under interrogation by the CIA was abused in October 2003 by two or three SEALs. On another occasion a month later, the witness said he watched as SEALs punched, choked and poked their fingers in the eye of Iraqi Manadel al-Jamadi, who also was punched by a CIA official when he didn't answer questions.

Al-Jamadi, a suspect in the

bombing of a Red Cross facility in Iraq, died a few hours after he was captured during a joint CIA-special operations mission in November 2003.

He died while being interrogated by CIA personnel in the shower room of the Abu Ghraib prison.

The former SEAL, who was not identified, was the government's main witness at Monday's Article 32 hearing.

The hearing, the military equivalent of a civilian grand jury, was for a Navy SEAL lieutenant who is accused of assault, maltreatment and conduct unbecoming an officer for his handling of detainees, including al-Jamadi.

A Navy officer hearing the evidence will make a recommendation whether the lieutenant, who was not identified, should face a court-martial.

## Former Gitmo translator guilty of lying

BOSTON — A former Arabic translator who took classified documents from the prison camp at Guantanamo Naval Base pleaded guilty to federal charges in a deal that will set him free within two months.

Ahmed Fathy Mehalba, 32, an Egyptian-born U.S. citizen and civilian translator at the base in Cuba, was arrested at Logan International Airport in September 2003 after returning from a trip to Egypt.

Customs agents found 132 compact discs in his luggage, including one that contained hundreds of documents labeled "SECRET" or "SECRET/NOFORN," meaning no foreign government was allowed to look at them.

He pleaded guilty Monday to one count of unauthorized possession of classified materials and two counts of lying to federal investigators.

From The Associated Press

Message for our men and women in uniform...

## WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!

From coast to coast, thousands of Americans are grateful for what you do and want to show you that they care. To see the actions and messages of support from these groups and individuals from all across America, visit [www.stripes.com](http://www.stripes.com).

This is just a small token of appreciation, a way to say...



Please visit the site at [www.stripes.com](http://www.stripes.com) and click on the America Supports You button to view the messages of support and to submit your own thank you notes as well!

STARS & STRIPES  
Your Hometown Newspaper



## IN THE WORLD

# Sharon phones Abbas to offer congratulations

## Call was first contact since election

BY R. PLUSHNICK-MASTI  
The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon called Mahmoud Abbas on Tuesday to congratulate him for winning the Palestinian presidential elections, the latest sign that the two sides are eager to restart peace efforts after years of stalemate.

Since Abbas' landslide victory on Sunday, Israel and the Palestinians have signaled their readiness to return to the negotiating table. The election, along with the formation of a new Israeli government that includes the dovish Labor Party, have raised hopes around the world that talks might soon resume.

Tuesday's phone call, confirmed by Israeli and Palestinian officials, was the first direct contact between the two leaders since the election.

Sharon "congratulated him on his personal achievement and his victory in the elections and

wished him luck," said a statement issued by the prime minister's office. "They agreed they would continue talking in the near future."

Earlier Tuesday, Sharon told his new Cabinet that he hoped to meet Abbas in the "near future." He told the ministers the meeting would focus on security issues, especially efforts to "halt terrorism," according to participants.

Abbas is widely considered more moderate than his predecessor, Yasser Arafat, who died on Nov. 11, 2004, in a French hospital.

Abbas refused to negotiate with Arafat, accusing him of encouraging violence during the past four years of fighting between the two sides.

The last meeting between Israeli and Palestinian premiers was in August 2003, when Sharon met Abbas during his brief term as Palestinian prime minister.

Fresh from his victory, Abbas expressed hope late Monday that the sides will be able to return to the negotiating table.

"We extend our hands to our neighbors," Abbas said. "We are ready for peace, peace based on justice. We hope that their response will be positive."

Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia said plans for the meeting were still in an early stage. "When the right time comes, we will go for a well-prepared meeting. We will not go just for a meeting, but for a useful one," he said.



Sharon



Abbas

World reaction to the election of Abbas has been positive.

In Washington, President Bush congratulated Abbas and invited the new Palestinian leader to the White House — an offer never extended to Arafat.

Bush called on him to root out terror groups and promote democracy.

Couching the presidential demand with warm words Bush never used with Yasser Arafat, the president telephoned Abbas on Monday and, according to a spokesman, told him he envisioned "a day when he and president-elect Abbas and Israel's leaders could stand together and say, 'We have peace.'"

In another development, Palestinian National Security Adviser Jibril Rajoub resigned Tuesday. In a statement, he said he was giving a chance to Abbas to appoint his own adviser, leaving open the possibility that he would resume the post.

# U.S. Embassy: Suspect killed was terrorist in urgent Web warning

The Associated Press

KUWAIT CITY — The gunman that police killed Monday was a terrorist that Americans had been warned about, the U.S. Embassy said, adding U.S. citizens should stay vigilant because more terrorists remain at large.

The gunman, Fawwaz Tlaik al-Otaibi, died of his wounds after a shootout with police in a suburb of Kuwait City on Monday. Two policemen also were killed in the gun battle, which came hours after the U.S. Embassy had posted an urgent message on its Web site warning of an "individual or individuals moving about Kuwait in a black-colored small sedan [who] aimed to randomly attack Westerners."

On Tuesday, the embassy's Web site said the "terrorist" shot dead in the shootout was one of those referred to in the warning, and added: "At least one suspected terrorist, known to be armed and dangerous, remains at large."

The "two terrorists involved in the shooting may have been part of a larger group," the Web site

said. "U.S. citizens should exercise caution, maintain a low profile, and remain aware of their surroundings."

Kuwait's interior minister, Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Sabah, said Tuesday none of the others involved in the gunbattle had been arrested. He declined to tell reporters anything about al-Otaibi's motives or affiliation until the police had finished their investigation.

However, two lawmakers who discussed the incident with the minister in a parliamentary committee, Nasser al-Saneh and Mohammed al-Sagor, said afterward it was a "terrorist" matter.

The incident came about 10 days after Kuwait upgraded its domestic security measures, deploying armed military and police vehicles at street junctions and outside hotels, embassies and oil facilities.

In its statements on Monday's gunbattle, the Interior Ministry did not say what al-Otaibi was wanted for.

The interior minister has said that Kuwait has recently many security threats recently.

## Mandela funeral

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — A memorial service was planned Tuesday for former President Nelson Mandela's last son, whose death of AIDS complications last week underscored the silence still shrouding a disease that kills more than 600 a day in South Africa.

Makgatho Mandela's family refused to disclose the nature of his illness when he went into intensive care at a Johannesburg hospital late last year.

But within hours of his death, Nelson Mandela, a leading international AIDS campaigner, summoned the media to his home to disclose that his son

had been infected with HIV and to appeal for more openness about the virus ravaging Africa.

## Commuters protest

ROME — Scores of trains were delayed or idled Tuesday as some 200 commuters blocked a railway line in northern Italy to protest what they say are chronic delays and overcrowding, officials said.

The commuters occupied the tracks at the Vittoriano station, some 19 miles west of Milan, when they saw that a train they were waiting for was too overcrowded for them to get on, news reports said.

From The Associated Press

**New Computers and Laptops!!!**  
No Down Payment Required!!

**Visit Us Today!**  
[www.militarycomputers.us](http://www.militarycomputers.us)  
**E-1 AND ABOVE APPROVED**

# JOIN THE ARMY RESERVE IN EUROPE



Enjoy a rewarding part-time career with opportunities for personal and professional development in the **7th Army Reserve Command**. With 22 units throughout Germany and in Vicenza, Italy, **The U.S. Army Reserve in Europe** offers membership to all U.S. citizens/resident aliens (non-prior service / prior service), enlisted soldiers and officers separating overseas, members of the IRR, family members, and high school juniors and seniors that are 17 years and older.

With a minimum of one weekend a month and a flexible two-week annual training (AT) schedule, you will earn educational benefits, enlistment bonuses (based on Military Occupational Specialty), four days' pay for weekend training, full pay and allowances during AT and retirement with 20 years service (retirement pay starts at age 60). Army Reserve Soldiers in Germany are also entitled to 24 PX and Commissary visits per year while on inactive status, and unlimited access while on active duty.

To join **THE ARMY RESERVE IN EUROPE**, contact the **U.S. Army Reserve Recruiter** at DSN 379-7828, CIV 06202-80-7829, or email: [CraigerSD@hq.7arcom.army.mil](mailto:CraigerSD@hq.7arcom.army.mil) or **7th ARCOM Retention and Transition office** at DSN 379-6351, CIV 06202-80-6351 or email: [Retention@hq.7arcom.army.mil](mailto:Retention@hq.7arcom.army.mil)

Note: If separating overseas, contact your In-Service Recruiter prior to separation to preclude break in service.)

Visit the 7th ARCOM Web Site for current vacancies | [www.7arcom.army.mil](http://www.7arcom.army.mil)



In this photo released by an Arab-based container vessel, a raft carrying tsunami survivor Ari Afzizal drifts on the sea Sunday before being rescued and brought to the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

## Tsunami survivor picked up after 15 days in the ocean

The Associated Press

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — A tsunami survivor rescued after 15 days adrift in the Indian Ocean recounted Tuesday how he lived on coconuts that floated by, tearing them open with his teeth.

Indonesia, meanwhile, said it hoped to ease the bottleneck of air flights by opening a second airport north of Sumatra island. Also Tuesday, Indonesia's military chief extended a new cease-fire offer to rebels in Aceh province, the region hit hardest by the Dec. 26 earthquake and tsunami that killed more than 150,000 people across South Asia.

Rebels in the area welcomed the proposal made by Gen. Endriarto Sutarto during a news conference in Banda Aceh.

"We have to together to help Aceh," Sutarto said.

The 21-year-old survivor, Ari Afzizal, was picked up Sunday by a container ship after being swept out to sea by the tsunami from a beachfront construction site in Aceh. He is the third Indonesian to be rescued and brought to Malaysia.

"The earthquake lasted about 15 minutes," Ari said after the ship docked at Port Klang near

the capital of Kuala Lumpur. "Then the waves came, big, big waves that slammed down hard on us."

Ari, who appeared fit despite the ordeal, said he saw four of his friends grab pieces of debris or uprooted trees, "but we drifted away from each other as the waves rolled us out further into the sea."

For a while, he lay on a 5-foot-long plank, weak and exhausted.

"My throat was burning. The sun was hot. I had cuts all over my body. The salt water was stinging. I couldn't even find my voice to call out to other survivors. Eventually they all drifted away and I was all alone," he said in an interview with The Associated Press from his hospital bed.

"I prayed and prayed. I told God I don't want to die. ... I worried about my elderly parents and asked for a chance to take care of them. As if my prayers were answered, a broken (boat) floated toward me a few days later."

He ended up finding a listing boat, which he stayed on for five days before spotting a large un-manned raft with a hut on it. He swam up to it and found a gallon bottle of water aboard.

## Europe pines for winter

BY WILLIAM J. KOLE  
The Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — Bears in Slovakia are awakening early from hibernation. So are barmaids in Bavaria, unseasonably busy in outdoor beer gardens. Bushes are blooming in Austria, and skiers at snowless Bosnian resorts are chilling out in hotel pools.

Forgoing a White Christmas was one thing, but the utter absence of snow for weeks on end has many Europeans pining for what seems — so far, anyway — like The Winter That Wasn't.

"Hope springs eternal," Austria's Kleine Zeitung newspaper headlined Tuesday over a photo of a lone snowflake.

The country's alpine ski slopes have plenty of white stuff, but Vienna and much of eastern Austria haven't had more than a dusting since early December.

Although temperatures have been dropping to near freezing overnight, warm air pumped up from the Azores has produced a string of sunny, balmy days in the low 50s across much of the continent.

Belgium had its warmest Jan. 10 on record Monday, when the mercury peaked at 57.2 degrees in Brussels, breaking the previous mark of 54 set in 1993. Scores of people took to their terraces to soak up the sun, and others strolled along North Sea beaches.

It was even warmer — a touch under 61 degrees — in the southern Czech city of Ceske Budejovice on Saturday, the balmy Jan. 8 recorded in 230 years.



Todd Lodwick from the United States competes Sunday in the ski jump section at the nordic combined World Cup event in Seefeld, Austria. Austria's ski slopes may have plenty of snow, but parts of the country haven't had more than a dusting since early December.

But while the springlike weather was fine for humans, it was bad for brown bears in parts of the Czech Republic and neighboring Slovakia, some of which awoke from hibernation as grumpy as anyone roused early from a deep sleep. Naturalists warned that the testy animals were unlikely to fall back asleep and could be dangerous to people later in the season.

Birds also seemed to have been tricked into thinking spring has sprung.

One species that usually doesn't start singing until late February already was heard in the eastern Beskydy Mountains, and flamingos at a zoo in Jihlava,

75 miles southeast of Prague, were building nests — something they normally don't do until April.

The unseasonable warmth made the Czech Republic's Elbe River seem extra cold to 70 hardy swimmers who took their annual winter plunge last weekend. They said they prefer more frigid air temperatures, which make the river seem more comfortable by comparison.

Although most alpine ski centers had plenty of snow, poor conditions prompted World Cup organizers to cancel some events last weekend in southern Germany, where Bavaria's famed beer gardens opened for scores of thirsty visitors.



University of Maryland System College Europe



### Register Now!

Register January 3-14 for UMUC-Europe undergraduate and UMUC/Bowie State University graduate classes.

Check out the Term 3 schedule of classes:

[www.ed.umuc.edu](http://www.ed.umuc.edu)



Contact us at DSN 370-6762, CIV +49-(0)6221-3780, e-mail [edstudent\\_svc@ed.umuc.edu](mailto:edstudent_svc@ed.umuc.edu), or visit your UMUC-Europe field representative.

## Report: World's big cities vulnerable to major losses

The Associated Press

BERLIN — Tokyo, San Francisco and Los Angeles lead a world list of urban areas that could suffer catastrophic losses in lives and property from earthquakes, flooding, tsunamis or terrorism, the world's largest re-insurance company said in a report Tuesday.

Munich Re urged governments and urban planners to take disaster risks more fully into account when approving sites for development, and to take preventive measures.

Stefan Heyd, the company's head of corporate underwriting, said such "megacities" brought a new dimension of risk to the in-

surance business. "Megacities are exposed to all the classic risks, but their exposure and vulnerability are disproportionate," Heyd said in a statement accompanying the report.

Munich Re gave Tokyo the top rating on its list of vulnerable megacities, saying it combined huge population with vulnerability to volcanic eruption, earthquakes, tropical storms, tsunamis and flooding. With a risk index of 710, Tokyo was far ahead of No. 2, the San Francisco Bay area, which rated 167, mainly due to Tokyo's high risk of multiple disasters, its huge population and roughly 40 percent share of the country's economy.



## IN THE STATES

# Bush selects federal judge to lead Homeland Security

BY JOHN SOLOMON

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush on Tuesday chose federal appeals court judge Michael Chertoff to be his new Homeland Security chief, turning to a former federal prosecutor who helped craft the early war on terror strategy.

"Mike has shown a deep commitment to the cause of justice and an unwavering determination to protect the American people," Bush said. "Mike has also been a key leader in the war on terror."

Chertoff headed the Justice Department's criminal division from 2001 to 2003, where he played a central role in the nation's legal response to the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, before the president

named him to the appeals court position in New Jersey.

Chertoff, a federal appellate judge with the 3rd U.S. Court of Appeals in Philadelphia, would replace Tom Ridge, the department's first chief. "He leaves some very deep shoes to fill," Chertoff said.

"I don't pretend to know him well. I know him by reputation," Ridge said of Chertoff. "He's got great intellect, great energy. He has been an extremely successful lawyer both in the public private and sector."

Chertoff, who rounds out



Chertoff

Bush's second-term Cabinet, is actually the president's second pick for the job. Former New York City police chief Bernard Kerik withdrew as nominee last month, citing immigration problems with a family housekeeper.

Bush said that Chertoff has "been confirmed by the Senate three times," signaling that he should have no problem surmounting the advice and consent process.

Chertoff, whose appeal court nomination sailed through Congress, won immediate support on Capitol Hill, where even Democrats applauded the choice.

"Judge Mike Chertoff has the résumé to be an excellent Homeland Security Secretary, given his law enforcement background and understanding of New York's and America's neglected homeland security needs," said Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y.

Chertoff and his wife, Meryl, each donated \$1,000 to Bush's first presidential campaign.

As chief Republican counsel to the Senate Whitewater Committee during the administration of President Clinton, Chertoff played a major role in the investigation of the Clintons' Arkansas business dealings; the suicide of Vincent Foster, a Clinton aide and former law partner of Hillary Clinton; and other allegations against the Clintons.



LOS ANGELES TIMES/AP

A victim of a mudslide is rescued Monday in La Conchita, Calif. A huge mudslide crashed down on homes in the coastal hamlet with terrifying force Monday, killing at least four people as a Pacific storm hammered Southern California for a fourth straight day.

## Record rain pouring misery throughout Southern California

BY CHRIS T. NGUYEN

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Scattered rain showers lashed waterlogged Southern California again Tuesday, hampering efforts to find survivors buried by a mudslide in a coastal community and prompting hundreds to flee a mountain town below a rain-swollen reservoir and along rising streams.

The succession of storms that have brought heavy snow to the mountains of Northern California and astonishing amounts of rain in the south was blamed for the deaths of at least 19 people.

The National Weather Service said Tuesday that downtown Los Angeles had recorded its wettest 15 consecutive days on record, with a total of 17 inches of rain falling in the period ending Monday.

The storm was forecast to taper off late Tuesday or early Wednesday and no new system is expected through the coming Martin

Luther King Jr. holiday weekend. More snow fell in the Sierra Nevada, but the mountains were expected to get a break in the weather this weekend with rising temperatures.

In La Conchita, a small community on a spit of land between the hills south of Santa Barbara and the Pacific Ocean, a massive mudslide Monday killed four people, injured 14 and left 20 to 27 unaccounted-for.

Some of those missing may have been out of town, but firefighters were certain at least some were trapped in the 15 homes that were crushed under a pile of mud 30 feet high, said Keith Mashburn, the Ventura County Fire Department's chief investigator.

Some 20 miles away, about 350 people in Piru took shelter overnight at a school after the entire town of 2,000 residents was advised to evacuate.

Roads all over Southern California were being closed periodically because of high water.

## Bright side of clouds: Drought relief

DENVER — Storms that have wreaked havoc from California to Colorado could mean relief for areas of the West that have suffered through five years of crippling drought.

"Since October, significant snowpack has been piling up from the Sierras to the southern and central Rockies," Douglas LeComte, drought specialist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, said in a statement Monday.

The snowpack water content is more than 150 percent of normal across much of the Southwest, from southern and central California into Nevada, Utah and western Arizona, LeComte said. He said more snow could help bring "significant" water flow to those parts of the West.

— The Associated Press



EVERYDAY LOW PRICES FROM  
EUROLENS CONTACT LENSES!

Order any four items from Eurolens and receive  
a 10% discount

Contact lenses by mail—FREE shipping to European addresses

Germany 0800 1822593 UK 0800 897275 Italy 800 015480

Holland 0800 0221447 Spain 9009 93967 Belgium 0800 73195

[www.eurolenscontactlenses.com](http://www.eurolenscontactlenses.com)



University of Maryland University College Europe



Check out UMUC-Europe's Term 3  
schedule of classes:

[www.ed.umuc.edu](http://www.ed.umuc.edu)



Find your undergraduate, graduate, or distance education  
class schedule using the online searchable schedule link.



Contact us at DSN 370-6762, CIV +49 (0)6221-3780, e-mail [edstudent\\_svc@ed.umuc.edu](mailto:edstudent_svc@ed.umuc.edu),  
or visit your UMUC-Europe field representative.

# High court hears CIA spy contract case

BY HOPE YEN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Secret spy deals should never be litigated in court because of the danger to national security, the Supreme Court was told Tuesday, as it heard arguments in a case involving former Cold War spies who say the CIA backed out of a pledge of lifetime support.

The Supreme Court is considering whether the former Eastern bloc diplomat and his wife may sue the CIA for allegedly breaking a promise to provide them financial security for life.

"There's something inherent about an espionage relationship that you understand you have no protected status under the law," said acting Solicitor General Paul Clement. But David Burnham, who represents the couple, said the executive branch should not have the power to renege on spy contracts without some judicial review.

## Justices to weigh whether ex-agents can sue agency for allegedly breaking income deal

"This is not about the protection of state secrets, but about the limits of executive power," he said.

Several justices appeared hesitant to have federal courts referee spy deals, noting that not only spies but CIA officials accept that they might be backstabbed when making secret deals.

At issue is whether a 130-year-old Supreme Court ruling automatically bars federal courts from hearing lawsuits over alleged spy contracts, which the CIA says are secret deals that may never be acknowledged.

The administration of President Bush argues that since the CIA was created in 1947, courts have dismissed spy lawsuits

outright on the grounds that any disclosure could threaten security and undermine CIA recruitment efforts.

The couple, who are identified by the aliases John and Jane Doe, counter that the executive branch should not have the power to renege on spy contracts without some judicial review. Sensitive information could be kept secret by sealing records or other methods, they say.

The San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals agreed, ruling the couple had a right to obtain documents and other information from the CIA to build a trial case. It said recent rulings have allowed litigation to proceed in cases involving questions of national security if the government doesn't show a clear risk.

The case involves a former high-ranking diplomat and his wife who wanted to defect from their Eastern bloc country but were pressured by U.S. authorities to instead spy for the United States, according to the lawsuit. In exchange, the CIA promised to help them later defect as well as provide lifetime security.

When their spying was over in 1987, the CIA helped them resettle in Seattle with new identities, benefits and a bank job for the husband, the suit says. They initially received a \$27,000 yearly stipend and became U.S. citizens.

The CIA stopped the subsidy when John Doe's salary from the bank hit \$27,000, but the two were promised the agency would "always be there." However, the couple claims, when Doe lost his job in 1997, the CIA refused to reinstate the stipend, saying the couple had received enough pay for their spy services.

## Rather saves job, but reputation takes a hit

BY DAVID BAUDER

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — As his anchor career nears its end in March, Dan Rather's reputation as a hard-charging news reporter took some damaging blows from the independent panel that probed CBS's discredited story on President Bush's National Guard service.

Three CBS News executives and the producer of last September's "60 Minutes Wednesday" report were fired Monday by CBS chief Leslie Moonves for rushing the story to air and then blindly defending it.

Rather was portrayed by the panel — retired Associated Press chief executive officer Louis D. Boccia and former GOP Attorney General Dick Thornburgh — as "pushed to the limit" by coverage of the Republican National Convention and Hurricane Frances as final reporting on the story was done.

"He's had a distinguished television news career, he's one of the largest figures in this industry and this event doesn't erase the other things that he has accomplished," Boccia said Tuesday in an interview on CBS' "The Early Show."

The veteran anchor did not appear to have participated in any of the vetting sessions or even seen the story before it aired, Boccia and Thornburgh found.

"The panel has found that his unswerving insistence that CBS News and his colleague were in the wrong was a mistake, and

that the broadcast would have benefited from a more direct involvement on Rather's part," Moonves said in a statement.

Given Rather's voluntary retirement as anchor, a decision that Rather said was unrelated to the National Guard story, Moonves said he decided not to discipline him.

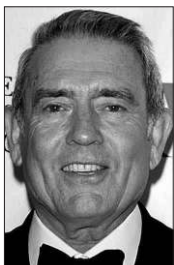
Rather will move then to "60 Minutes," where Moonves said he will have "more time to concentrate on his reporting."

Rather did not anchor the "CBS Evening News" on Monday, after traveling back from Thailand over the weekend. An aide said he was ending the report but did not have an immediate comment.

It had to have been a particularly painful moment for a man who regards as one of his proudest legacies that he remained a reporter as well as a newscaster in a quarter-century at the anchor desk. He frequently traveled to the sites of major stories, including tsunami-devastated Asia.

Fired were Mary Mapes, the story's producer; Josh Howard, executive producer of "60 Minutes Wednesday"; Howard's top deputy, Mary Murphy; and CBS News senior vice president Betty West.

Boccia and Thornburgh's 224-page report catalogued a long series of mistakes, essentially saying the report was aired too soon under competitive pressure without being thoroughly checked out. Four months after the report was aired, the panel still couldn't say clearly whether the claims allegedly disparaging Bush's service were real or fake.



Dan Rather

"If these experienced veterans knew everything that we know about the circumstances, the authentication, they wouldn't have let the program go on the air," Boccia said.

Added Thornburgh: "One of the things I think that surprised us was the fact that nobody within the CBS family seemed to have any appreciation of how tricky the process of authenticating documents is."

After compounding its errors by defending the initial report without looking into it further, CBS apologized 12 days later. But the panel found fault with Rather's Sept. 20 apology, saying it placed too much of the blame on the source of the memos and not enough on CBS.

Rather told the panel he did not think an apology was appropriate, but it did because he was a "team player." Rather also told Boccia and Thornburgh he still believes the content of the documents is true.

## Moussaoui takes pretrial appeal to Supreme Court

BY LARRY MARGASAK

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Lawyers for Zacarias Moussaoui petitioned the Supreme Court on Monday, challenging the government's right to put the terrorism suspect on trial while the defense had no access to potentially favorable al-Qaida witnesses.

The written brief questioned whether Moussaoui's constitutional rights would be violated if the defense was forced to rely on government-prepared summaries of interrogation statements from three al-Qaida captives.

The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Va., has approved use of the summaries after the government argued that more direct access to al-Qaida leaders — or even their classified interrogation statements — would jeopardize national security.

The lawyers said it was unconstitutional to force Moussaoui to rely on "summaries of classified documents containing information from unnamed, unknown government agents purporting to report unsworn, incomplete, non-verbatim accounts" of witness statements.

Moussaoui, a French citizen, was indicted in December 2001, and remains the only U.S. defendant charged in an al-Qaida conspiracy that includes the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. The defendant has acknowledged his loyalty to Osama bin Laden but denies he was to have any role in the 2001 airplane hijackings.

The lawyers appeared a ruling from the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which would allow Moussaoui access to the summaries but still refuse direct access to the al-Qaida witnesses. The ruling also allows prosecutors to seek the death penalty.

Most of the written brief was not immediately made public because it includes classified information. However, an unclassified portion of the brief — obtained by The Associated Press — raised questions of whether Moussaoui would be denied his right to a fair trial under three sections of the U.S. Constitution.

Supreme Court spokeswoman Kirby Arberg said an unclassified version of the brief would be available in about a week. The lawyers said Moussaoui was denied rights under the Sixth Amendment, which allows defendants to compel testimony in their favor; the Fifth Amendment guarantee that defendants should not be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law; and the Eighth Amendment, banning cruel and unusual punishment.

## Man pleads guilty to Bush threat

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. — A man pleaded guilty Monday in federal court to threatening to kill President Bush.

Darrell D. Alford, 56, admitted he threatened on Aug. 4 to fly a bomb-laden model airplane into an arena or stadium where Bush would be speaking. He faces up to five years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine of up to \$250,000.

It was not clear when or where Alford planned to harm Bush, said Don Ledford, a spokesman for the U.S. attorney's office.

## Stewart book ban lifted

GULFPORT, Miss. — A library board in southern Mississippi has lifted its ban of Jon Stewart's best-selling "America (The Book)" after local residents spoke up in support of it.

The Jackson-George Regional Library System board of trustees had voted last month to ban the book in eight public libraries because they objected to an image of the faces of the U.S. Supreme Court justices superimposed on nine naked bodies.

They rescinded the ban Monday on a 5-2 vote.

## Pfizer replacing misleading Listerine ads

NEW YORK — The maker of Listerine mouthwash will spend \$2 million to replace what a judge called "misleading" advertising suggesting the product is as effective as flossing at fighting plaque and gingivitis.

About 4,000 workers will be deployed around the country to place stickers over the claim on Listerine bottles and to remove similar advertisements that hang on bottle-necks, a lawyer for Pfizer Inc. told a federal judge Monday.

From The Associated Press

# Power outage puts arctic town in deep freeze

BY MARY PEMBERTON

THE Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — A power outage has forced residents of an Alaskan village on the Arctic Ocean to scurry from one building to another in search of warmth in subzero conditions, while state officials scramble to get repair crews to the isolated area.

"It hell can freeze over, this is

it, and it has," said Arthur Smith in a telephone interview from Kaktovik, which is home to about 300 people in the state's northeast corner, more than 200 miles beyond the Arctic Circle.

Smith crawled out of two down sleeping bags to answer the phone Monday at the local hotel where he's the caretaker.

The village's power generating plant quit at about 5 p.m. Sunday during a blizzard in which 70

mph winds drove temperatures to 20 below zero Fahrenheit — 60 below zero F counting the wind chill. By Monday afternoon temperatures had risen — barely — to 10 below zero F with a wind chill of 50 below F, according to the National Weather Service.

Most residents were coping by wearing winter gear indoors, and using propane and wood stoves and kerosene heaters. Some residents sought shelter at the village

school, which had its own source of power. Then that, too, failed Sunday night.

Eight or nine families from the school moved to a village equipment maintenance building that still has power. But its generators depend on fuel tanks that are running low, authorities said.

An Alaska Air National Guard C-130 plane loaded with equipment and repair technicians left Anchorage for Kaktovik on Mon-

day. But in Barrow, about 325 miles west of Kaktovik, the plane was delayed by a severe storm. Officials planned to try again Tuesday morning.

Jim Butchart, with the state Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, said the situation is not life-threatening. But he said concerns are increasing that if power can't be restored soon, the village people could freeze, causing extensive damage.

## Some Dems urge Inauguration Day economic boycott

BY ADRIENNE SCHWISOW

The Associated Press

DETROIT — David Livingstone says the idea behind the economic boycott he's organizing is simple: If people don't show up at work or buy things, companies lose money. As he sees it, that's money the Bush administration can't tax, and can't use to run the war in Iraq, protect polluters or chip away at the Constitution.

So the Detroit Democrat and a handful of other anti-Bush groups across the country are urging others of like mind to withhold their cash and labor on Inauguration Day — from all businesses. They don't think they'll inflict a huge economic pain, but they do want a point.

"I view the inauguration of Bush as a black Thursday for this country," Livingstone says. "We've tried marching in the streets to stop the war, we tried writing letters, we tried initiatives on the Web, but Bush doesn't listen. It seems to us the only thing Bush and the Republicans will listen to is money."

Livingstone, a 41-year-old writer, hopes to be in Washington for the Jan. 20 festivities, which for him means protests, black armbands and backs turned to the parade route. He's vowed not to buy gas, food or use his credit card on a second day. Bush wants the GOP, big oil, big banking, big box stores and any other "bigs" to know they can't push him around or ignore him — at least not on Jan. 20.

Bush "is proud that we live in a society where people are free to peacefully express their opinions," White House spokesman Jim Murrell says.

Other groups nationwide, many loosely connected through the Internet, have put out calls similar to Livingstone's. Jesse Gordon, 44, of Cambridge, Mass., spreads the word through his Web site, Not One Damn Dime! "I think Bush should acknowledge the boycott. If we're effective, he'll know about it, and he should acknowledge it," Gordon says.

In New Orleans, Buddy Spell says his January 20th Committee eagerly endorses the idea of an economic boycott. He remains primarily concerned with organizing a jazz funeral procession through the downtown to mourn a second day. Bush term and what he calls the death of democracy. But he says a boycott is worth pursuing, in part because it can help unite disparate anti-Bush forces.

The groups hope to see several million people eating brown-bag lunches and dinners on Inauguration Day. If peo-



David Livingstone, who is promoting an economic boycott on January 20 during the presidential inauguration, shows the home page to his Web site Saturday in Detroit.

ple don't want to boycott all business, the groups suggest buying from just those that support Democrats. The protesters say they'll measure success not in economic terms, but by whether people know about the boycott and if it sparks future activism. And if there's by chance a blip in the GDP, that would be a bonus.

"I can't imagine it would have any impact whatsoever," says David J. Vogel, professor of business ethics at the University of California at Berkeley. "Even if everyone didn't buy on that day, they'd make up for it the next day."

Historian Lawrence Glickman says boycotts rarely accomplish a substantial economic goal. "There's this appeal about boycotts, anyone can take part in them, and you can use your pocketbook to express your dissatisfaction," says Glickman, who studies labor and consumer activism at the University of Southern California in Columbia. "It's a way of feeling like we're participating in something bigger than ourselves."

## Perchlorate debate fueled by new report

BY ERICA WERNER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The debate about perchlorate contamination in drinking water is getting more heated as environmentalists object to a report claiming the widespread toxin is far less dangerous than was thought.

A National Academy of Sciences panel said Monday that perchlorate, a toxic chemical used in rocket fuel and explosives, is safe for consumption at levels 20 times the standard being considered by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The study is expected to influence the EPA as it develops its first national standard for perchlorate in drinking water. But environmentalists contended such a high standard could endanger children's health while letting defense contractors off the hook for cleanup costs.

"Wherever this standard is applied, most perchlorate contamination sites will be wiped off the map," said Lenny Siegel, director of the Center for Public

Environmental Oversight in Mountain View, Calif. "Millions of children and pregnant women will continue to be guinea pigs in the great perchlorate exposure experiment."

The study comes after years of disagreement over how dangerous it is for people

*There has been disagreement for years over how dangerous it is for people to drink water tainted with perchlorate.*

tainted with perchlorate, a pervasive leftover of Cold War defense manufacturing that has been found in drinking water in 35 states. The chemical, which leaches easily into groundwater from defense and manufacturing sites, can inhibit thyroid function and is considered particularly dangerous to children.

While the chemical also is found in nature, the panel said its presence in the environment primarily comes from the manufacture and use of rocket fuels as well as explosives and fireworks.

The NAS panel recommended a level for safe human consumption of approximately 20 parts per billion in drinking water. Two years ago, the EPA issued a preliminary recommendation of 1 part per billion.

The academy study was ordered by the Bush administration in 2003 to review the stricter standard the EPA had proposed in 2002. The Pentagon had criticized that standard as too stringent.

The Natural Resources Defense Council contended that documents obtained under Freedom of Information Act requests showed the Pentagon and the White House had sought to influence the scope of the academy's study in order to get a weaker standard.

## Ariz. botulism supplier ordered to stop shipments

BY CATHERINE WILSON

The Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — A federal judge ordered an Arizona company to stop distributing raw botulism bacteria in place of the wrinkle treatment Botox and to recall any of roughly 3,000 vials that may still be in circulation.

The potent bacteria marketed by Tucson, Arizona-based Toxin Research International to doctors since 2003 came from the same California supplier whose product is blamed for paralyzing four people injected at a Florida clinic.

Toxin Research used misleading and deceptive practices that are "likely to result in tragic consequences to the unsuspecting consumer," U.S. District Judge James Cohn said on Monday.

List Biological Laboratories, a Campbell, Calif.-based maker of bulk reagents, allegedly prepared a low-dose batch of botulism, something equivalent to the injectable cosmetic drug, and sold it to Toxin Research for about \$30,000.

Bach McComb, who lost his medical license last year, first obtained botulism from Toxin Research and then direct

from List in a strength 20,000 times higher. Witnesses say McComb injected the List botulism that paralyzed himself and three others in late November. All four are still being treated.

The judge granted the government's request for an injunction to shut down Toxin Research and its botulism sales to doctors after hearing from the company's founder, Chad Livdahl, and from the operator of an affiliated company.

Livdahl, a microbiologist and owner of the company, testified repeatedly that his sales were intended for research only and not for human use in place of Botox.







## Background checks

**MA** BOSTON — State regulators are beginning criminal background checks of physicians applying to practice medicine in Massachusetts. It's an effort to protect the public, says Nancy Achlin Andresse, the executive director of the State Board of Registration in Medicine. Doctors already must disclose criminal histories on license applications, but some hide their convictions. Massachusetts becomes the 21st state to institute the checks.



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Improper cleaning

**NC** RALEIGH — Two Duke University Health System hospitals in Durham and Raleigh, N.C., have notified about 4,000 patients that they may have been operated on with surgical instruments that weren't properly cleaned.

Although letters to patients don't specify what happened, drums labeled "detergent" actually contained a petroleum-based hydraulic fluid that was piped into the instrument-cleaning system at Duke Health Raleigh Hospital and Durham Regional Hospital.

Hospital officials say patient care was not compromised because all instruments were properly sterilized in a separate step.

### Maple sugar museum

**NH** ORFORD — The group that represents New Hampshire maple syrup producers is making plans for the mother of all sap houses — a New Hampshire maple sugar museum.

The New Hampshire Maple Producers Association has received a gift of the largest collection of antique sugaring tools and equipment in North America, and is trying to find a place to put it.

Its vice president, Peter Thomson of Orford, says money is being raised to provide a fire-safe building to temporarily store the artifacts while the group plans a permanent museum.

The collection is a gift from Charlie Stewart of Sugar Hill, who has been collecting the artifacts for many years, Thomson said.

### Creature comforts

**CA** SAN FRANCISCO — In San Francisco, where orphaned animals live in "pet condos" at the SPCA, pet parents are called "guardians" instead of "owners," and well-behaved canines are enrolled in doggie day care, now comes a law mandating more creature comforts for the creatures.

The ordinance, expected to be approved by the Board of Supervisors, spells out exactly what the city means by providing food, shelter and water to dogs.

The food: palatable and nutritious. The water: changed at least once a day and provided in a non-tipping bowl. The shelter: big enough for the canine to stand up and turn around in and with a raised floor and dry, clean bedding for when the "ambient temperature falls below that ... to which the dog is acclimated."

### Medical screenings

**CT** HARTFORD — Legislation on breast cancer screenings is receiving a boost from Gov.

M. Jodi Rell's battle with the disease. Two newly filed bills would expand the type of screenings insurance companies would be required to cover. Rell, a longtime advocate for breast cancer awareness, underwent a mastectomy and reconstructive surgery. Her doctors say her prognosis is excellent.

### School dances canceled

**CA** LEMOORE — Fed up with students' racy moves, a principal has taken the unusual step of canceling the rest of this year's school dances.

Principal Jim Bennett of Lemoore Union High School said he warned students at a winter formal dance last month to either quit dirty dancing or face the possibility of not dancing at all.

But he said the students continued "freak dancing," a form of sexually suggestive dancing that involves grinding the hips and pelvic area.

The ban on dances includes the school's Sadie Hawkins dance in February and the junior and senior proms in the spring, but Bennett said they could be rescheduled if students modify their behavior.

"It's really up to the kids at this point. They have to take some responsibility," Bennett said.

### Road proves deadly

**KY** PIKEVILLE — U.S. 23 through Pike County had more deaths than any other road in Kentucky from 1999 through last November, a newspaper reported. Thirty-eight people died in 31 accidents on the road.



### Flying Elvis

A telemark-skiing Elvis, Charlie Curle, enjoys a run during Mount Rose's annual Elvis Day celebration near Reno, Nev.

The Lexington Herald-Leader conducted a county-by-county analysis that reviewed every traffic fatality, including pedestrian deaths and ATV accidents, on publicly maintained roads.

### Suspect arrested

**TN** ELIZABETHTON — A man was arrested on charges he made dozens of obscene phone calls from an unexpected place — a hospital intensive care waiting room.

Hank Steve Williams, 38, was charged with 38 counts of telephone harassment.

Officials said the suspect, who is not an employee of Sycamore Shoals Hospital, made the calls to at least five different women he didn't know over the past two months.

"He really had reached a comfort zone," said Elizabethton Police Capt. Mike Peters. "He knew the calls wouldn't be traced back to his number and he developed a pattern of making calls between 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. on weekdays and noon and 2 p.m. on weekends."

Investigators arrested Williams after a surveillance camera allegedly caught him using the waiting room phone. Other evidence indicates such calls had been coming from the hospital since 2002, they said.

### End to bison hunt

**MT** HELENA — Montana canceled what would have been the state's first bison hunt in more than a decade.

The Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission's 4-1 vote came after new Gov. Brian Schweitzer expressed strong misgivings about the hunt and the potential bad publicity for the state.

The hunting of bison that wander from Yellowstone National Park each winter was canceled in 1991 after a barrage of protests and bad publicity. But the 2003 Legislature authorized bison hunting to resume.

Many bison in the park carry the disease brucellosis, which can cause cattle to abort. Montana ranchers fear the bison will spread the disease to their herds, although there has not been a documented case of that happening.

More than 8,200 people applied for 10 hunting licenses that were to be issued through a drawing.

### Attack on seniors

**VA** ALEXANDRIA — Police have charged a housekeeper with murder at a retirement home with knifing seven people, including four residents in their 90s, in seemingly random attacks at the facility.

The 30-year-old man took a knife and slashed and stabbed people in an office, hallway and living areas at Goodwin House Alexandria before a visitor managed to disarm him, said Alexandria police Capt. John Crawford.

The victims were taken to area hospitals. Their injuries apparently weren't life-threatening, but there is concern about the elderly victims' ability to recover, police spokeswoman Amy Bertsch said.

The suspect had been employed at Goodwin House for about a year and had no history of discipline problems, Goodwin House spokeswoman Colleen Ryan Mallon said.



### Catch of the day

Watermen haul in oysters at Deep Creek in Newport News, Va. Watermen are seeing a new and thriving area of oysters in the James River between Deep Creek and the James River Bridge, something that hasn't happened for more than a decade.



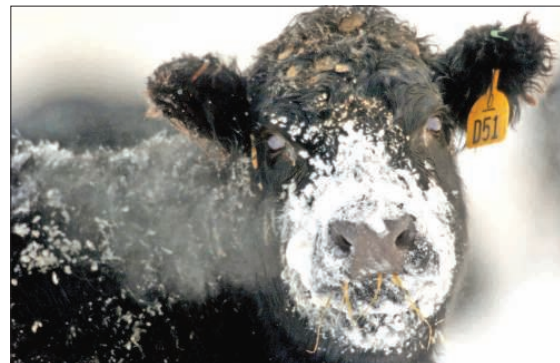
### Sinking feeling

A residence is partially swallowed by a sinkhole in Orange City, Fla. The sinkhole damaged two houses in Volusia County and forced the evacuation of 11 other homes. At 110 feet wide, it was the second largest sinkhole to open in Volusia County in less than two months.



### On the run

Hundreds of runners begin the Walt Disney Marathon in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.



BITTTTTT ...

Snow and ice stick to the snout of a black angus cow in a pasture near Fairfield, Mont. The animal was grazing in a field blanketed by four inches of snow.



## Changing times

One of at least four wooden boats that a researcher suggests were built in the late 19th or early 20th century lies in the mud near a boat ramp on the Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River in Chesapeake, Va.



## Home, sweet home

Spectators watch from the deck of the Hampton Inn and Suites as the USS John C. Stennis arrives in Bremerton, Wash. The Stennis changed homeport from San Diego to Kitsap Naval Base in Bremerton.

## Oil company fined

**AK** ANCHORAGE — London-based BP agreed to pay civil fines totaling nearly \$1.4 million for two safety violations in Alaska's Prudhoe Bay oil field, including a 2002 well explosion that badly injured an Anchorage man. The amount to be paid in the mishap that injured employee Don Shugak, almost \$1.3 million, is one of the largest penalties the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission has levied against an oil company.

## Painter pleads guilty

**IN** INDIANAPOLIS — A man pleaded guilty to homicide charges for starting a fire in the back of a truck carrying a house-painting crew, turning the vehicle into a rolling inferno that killed two men.

Prosecutors told Tommy C. McElroy flicked a lighter to ignite a splash of lacquer thinner that had been thrown toward a co-worker as a practical joke. His action ignited a fireball that left the 13 painters badly burned as the truck raced along the highway in rush-hour traffic.

McElroy, 27, faces up to eight years in prison when he is sentenced next month. He pleaded guilty to two counts of reckless homicide and one count of criminal recklessness.

Outside court, fire victims and their loved ones expressed outrage at what they called an inadequate penalty for someone who caused so much agony.

The driver did not stop the truck until after the 13 men in the cargo hold began screaming and the vehicle shifted as they struggled to escape. Most of the painters were still on fire as they jumped or fell from the truck.

## Place for remains

**NY** SYRACUSE — Three Franciscan nuns from upstate New York plan to travel to Hawaii to bring back the remains of a woman who led their religious community more than a century ago and may be considered for sainthood.

Mother Marianne Cope's remains will be placed in the convent's chapel while the women decide whether they will build a special chapel to honor her.

Sister Grace Anne Dillenschneider, Sister Patricia Burkard, general minister of the community, and Sister Mary Laurence Hanley plan to leave Jan. 22. The exhumation is expected to begin Jan. 24. They expect to return with Mother Cope's remains in February.

Pope John Paul II last month accepted a report of a miracle attributed to the intervention of Mother Cope. The case involved a Syracuse teenager who had suffered multiple organ failure and recovered after she was touched by a relic of Mother Cope and prayers sought her intercession in the girl's healing.

## Dog adopted

**TX** FLOWER MOUND — A dog that apparently hitched a ride halfway across the country now has a 12-acre ranch to roam although her new owner says Carla will spend much of her time inside.

The mixed-breed dog, thought to

be about 11 years old, was adopted by Mira Jones, one of the Flower Mound Humane Society volunteers who had cared for her since she showed up in Denton in December. The dog had escaped from her home in Castle Rock, Wash., and was found covered with ice at a truck stop near Amarillo before being taken to a veterinary hospital in Denton.

The dog was identified through an implanted microchip and her owner, Gail Scott, asked that she be put up for adoption because of the difficulty in returning her to Washington.

Although Scott received offers to pay for the dog's transportation back to Washington, she agreed to let the adoption proceed after humane society officials balked at returning her.

## Record lion sightings

**ND** MINOT — A record 63 mountain lion sightings were reported last year in the state, wildlife officials said. Only seven of the sightings were confirmed through tracks, photographs and one carcass, biologist Jacquie Ermer said. Until last year, the sightings in the state since the early 1960s totaled fewer than 100.

## Houses won't boot bats

**VT** MANCHESTER — A proposed housing project wouldn't affect an area where hundreds of endangered Indiana bats are known to hibernate, wildlife officials say.

Developers Tommy Harmon and Neil Joseph are seeking a state land use permit to build 27 housing units at the Rockingham Farm on Route 7A, just south of Manchester village.

The site is adjacent to what was recently identified as Vermont's largest Indiana bat cave, which is home to 297 of the creatures.

Several other bat species also hibernate in the cave, including the little brown bat, northern long-eared bat and eastern pipistrelle, said state wildlife biologist Scott Darling.

## Dems held accused

**WI** MADISON — Some Wisconsin's top Democrats are among those who contributed thousands of dollars to help former state lawmakers Brian Burke and Chuck Chvala fight felony charges stemming from a corruption probe, according to an Associated Press review of state records. Donors included one of Gov. Jim Doyle's top aides and the state party's chairwoman. Burke's trial is scheduled for October. Chvala's trial has been delayed.

## Waiving tuition

**LA** BATON ROUGE — The University of Louisiana system will drop all or part of tuition for students whose families were affected by the Indian Ocean tsunami. The waivers for at least one semester will depend on each school's budget. About 780 students from Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand, the areas hit hardest, attend the eight universities. The president of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette said he expects about 100 of his school's 226 international students to qualify for the waiver.

Stories and photos from wire services



## AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFN's Web site at <http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil>

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2005

[illegible]

Read Stripes online at

www.stripes.co

STARS AND STRIPES  
Your Hometown Newspaper



## FACES



# Fans grill Ludacris

## Rapper asked about women, singing, and ruling the world

BY RAGUIYAH MAYS  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Ludacris has been interviewed so many times, it's ludicrous.

No. 1 on his fourth album, "Red Light District," debuting at No. 1 on the Billboard chart this week, we decided to ask some around-the-house folks what they want to know about the superstar rapper with the quicksilver tongue.

**Q:** What's up, Luda. Sunny, a radio DJ on Hot 97 in New York City, had the following question: We've seen various artists begin as rappers, then later in their career switch to singing, like Andre 3000 and Queen Latifah. Are you next? **A:** I like to call it "ghetto harmonizing." On the new album, there's a song called, "Blue Berry Yum Yum." But it's nothing in the realm of any of those people just named that are singing on their albums. It's almost like I'm rapping and singing at the same time. I don't even know how to explain it. It's weird.

**Q:** There was a time in hip-hop when singing was considered weak. When did it become OK for MCs to sing?

**A:** When they've already proven they can rap ... like Andre 3000. He's the perfect example. He rapped for five or six straight albums. So when you try to reinvent yourself and be creative and go to that next album, you can't blame him for [singing] because what more can you rap about. So taking it a step further, trying to harmonize or even sing, and people like it? He's captured a whole new audience. So I think it's cool. As long as you stay true to yourself.

**Q:** Have you ever serenaded a girl with a song?

**A:** I really can't say that I have. But maybe soon to come, who knows. Instead of serenading with singing, I'd probably rap to a girl. My first song was, "I'm cool I'm bad I might be ten." But I can't survive without my girlfriend. I've done some romantic things in my time. I hired somebody to put rose petals at [a girl's] feet for a day on her birthday.

**Q:** Wow! That's nice. Well, since we're talking about women, 29-year-old Courtney Patterson from Baltimore wants to know if you'd date a girl who had pimples and other physical imperfections, but a really big butt.

**A:** I have. I try not to judge. I let God judge. But I definitely love girls with beautiful feet. I have a foot fetish.

Messed up feet, man — sometimes she can trick me and just wear boots and not even show her feet. But when I see the feet, it's a wrap.

**Q:** I know the ladies love Ludacris. Even girls who are 29-year-old Evelyn Leduc from New York, who wants to know the chances of a skinny white girl like her with small breasts and no butt getting into one of your videos?

**A:** Extremely possible. There have been some. She just probably didn't see them. But I don't discriminate and I do make a conscious effort to pick some of the girls that are in my videos. It's just about the concept of the song and

how I think they will fit into the whole realm of what's going on. My next video, I'm going to have a lot of overweight beautiful women in it.

**Q:** It's only a matter of time before I just go ahead and get a bunch of skinny, no-butt-and-breasts white girls in the video.

**Q:** That would be an interesting way to create diversity and address the obesity problem in America. Would you run for public office?

**A:** I can't see myself doing that right now. But I would never say never. I look at myself as a leader, so obviously I would do that. Try to make some changes.

**Q:** Kevin Ryals, a 24-year-old from the Bronx, wants to know: If you ruled the world, what would you do?

**A:** The first thing I'd do is get Bush out of the presidency and bring Bill Clinton back. Besides that, I would deal with the debt. I would pay off the deficit. And of course I would deal with a lot of homeless issues, insurance issues for senior citizens. I would deal with the AIDS issue. I would just try to change what we feel is wrong today. There's no limit to that.

**Q:** Zayda Rivera, a 24-year-old writer and assistant editor with The Ave magazine, wants to know how your trip to Africa changed your perspective on life in the United States.

**A:** As it just makes me really value everything that I have because there are a lot of unfortunate people out there — way more than people here. So it makes me value life a lot more.

**Q:** What's the most memorable thing you saw in Africa?

**A:** Their projects compared to ours. It looked like a damn tent set up in the middle of a dirt road no bigger than my arm's reach. Thousands of them, in Soweto. I was there for a week, last year December. They were singing "Stand Up." It was amazing enough that I went to a whole other continent, 16 hours away, and they're singing my song. Crazy.

**Q:** Zayda also wants to know if this trip helped motivate your work with the Ludacris Foundation?

**A:** The motivation comes from how you feel good when you do good. It's that feeling and knowing that what you do is the right thing. Like when somebody gave you something when you were a kid, and how good you feel way. Knowing that I can do that and make people feel that way, that's the motivation.

**Q:** It's good to feel like a kid every now and then. One 14-year-old kid from Brooklyn named Malik Turner wants to know what you're working on next.

**A:** After this album is the fifth album. I'll probably be called "Release Therapy" because I'll be my last album in my deal. Two movies coming up, a John Singleton produced called "Hustle and Flow," a southern hood classic about a pimp trying to get into the music game. It sounds crazy, but it's gonna be a classic film. And there's a movie called "Crash" I did with Sandra Bullock, Brendan Fraser, Loretta Devine and Don Cheadle.

## Will Smith drops hotel project

The Fresh Prince has given up on plans to develop a hotel in his hometown.

Philadelphia-born actor and rapper Will Smith had won preliminary city approval several years ago to build a hotel and retail complex on a derelict property in the city's centuries-old Society Hill section.

The luxury hotel would have had views of the Delaware River and been within walking distance of tourist attractions like South Street and Independence Hall. The city had pledged \$9 million in tax incentives to help the development take place.

But the project stalled in recent years as the hotel market softened, and Smith and his brother have now sold the vacant lot where the complex was to have been built. The sale price was \$10.5 million, about three times what the family paid for the parcel five years ago.

The new owners, Star Properties, have a plan to build condominiums.



Smith

## Pie-tossing comedian gets a star

Comedian Soupy Sales, who once said a pie in the eye was worth a pound in the sky, saw his predictive pie-tossing pay off with a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame.

"I appreciate this from the bottom of my heart and I appreciate you all coming here in the rain," Sales, who was seated in a wheelchair, said Friday.

The rain forced the ceremony to be held inside the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, with Hollywood's honorary mayor, Johnny Grant, setting up the 79-year-old comic's classic schtick.

"Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr. had pies thrown in their face by Soupy Sales and I want to belong to that club," Grant said.

The star was the Walk's 2,274th. Celebrities attending included actor Peter Marshall and actress Nancy Allen.



Sales

## Producer-director awarded an Eddie

Producer-director James L. Brooks will add an Eddie to his shelf of Oscars and Emmys.

Brooks will receive the ACE Golden Eddie Filmmaker of the Year award on Feb. 20 in Beverly Hills.

The award is one of several handed out by American Cinema Editors.

Brooks is being honored for "his consistent excellence and craftsmanship and his unique ability to capture the human spirit on screens big and small," the group's board of directors said in a statement Friday.

Brooks has produced such movies as "Terms of Endearment," "Jerry Maguire" and the current "Spanglish." He has been executive producer on such hit shows as "Taxi" and "The Simpsons."

## Hong Kong pop star bags 5 trophies

Pop star Andy Lau dominated the annual Hong Kong Jade Solid Gold music awards, bagging five trophies, including the prize for most popular Hong Kong male singer in Asia.

In one of his acceptance speeches Saturday, Lau offered best wishes for people whose relatives are missing in the recent tsunami disaster, expressing hopes that their loved ones will be found, newspapers reported.

Lau also was named most popular male singer in Hong Kong, while three of his songs won individual honors. "Masseuse" was named one of the year's top 10 songs, while "After All I Have Love," clinched the most popular Chinese song prize.

Lau, one of the Hong Kong pop scene's "Four Heavenly Kings," has kept up his popularity with a steady stream of music and film releases.

In other awards presented Saturday night, Joey Yung was named Hong Kong's most popular female singer. Kelly Chen won the award for most popular Hong Kong female singer in Asia.



Lau



## OPINION

## Keeping the waves at bay after the tsunami

BY JANICE SHAW CROUSE

With thousands of children left orphaned by the South Asia tsunami, authorities are concerned for children's safety in a region where trafficking networks are entrenched among markets for forced labor and sexual slavery thrive. There is fear that trafficking rings might be preying on children left vulnerable in the social chaos produced by the tragedy.

"For exporters," said Lisa Thompson, who heads up anti-trafficking efforts for The Salvation Army, "any situation that leaves children homeless and orphaned is like the scent of a wounded animal to a wolf." Dr. Laura Lederer, who pioneered research on trafficking, echoed the same fears: "Places where there is political or economic instability, civil war or natural disaster are most likely to be targeted by traffickers."

Ambassador John Miller, who heads up the State Department's Trafficking in Persons office, summed up his concerns this way: "Trafficking of children has been going on in this region and elsewhere long before the tsunami. While cases of child trafficking resulting from the tsunami have yet to be confirmed, I believe wherever there is chaos, the opportunities for traffickers increase."

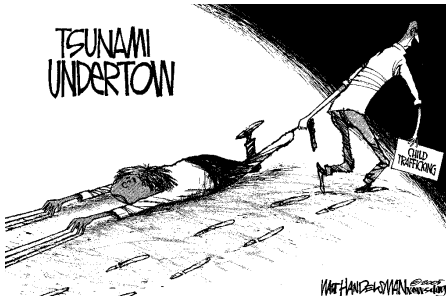
Dr. Donna Hughes, a University of Rhode Island professor and leading expert on child trafficking, agrees: "Predators are always looking for ways to prey on the vulnerable, so it shouldn't surprise us that a disaster that creates victims and chaos has become a prime hunting ground for traffickers. I would remember that on many of these beaches, pe-

dophiles and sexual predators abuse and exploit boys, girls and women every day of the year."

The affected nations are establishing measures to protect orphaned children. In the Aceh region of Indonesia where 35,000 children have lost at least one parent, police have been put on alert against exploitation of the children and special guards have been posted in refugee camps. Last year, Indonesia made significant progress in combating trafficking with 125 reported trafficking-related investigations, 67 prosecutions and 27 convictions. In addition, crisis centers were built and nongovernmental organizations began providing services to victims.

With such progress, Indonesia has laid a foundation for countering post-tsunami criminal activity and, since the tragedy, they have barred anyone from taking orphans out of the country until all are registered. Such measures will deter the traffickers, but officials fear that the proximity of Indonesia's ports already known as transit points for criminal networks may have enabled gangs to ship children out before officials could mobilize protective efforts.

India, too, is concerned about the exploitation of children orphaned by the tragedy. The government has accounted for all the children in the hardest-hit state, Tamil Nadu, and the government is building an orphanage and opening a bank account for each of the orphans. Tamil Nadu initiated action last year against 90 possible traffickers and 550 employees for child-labor infractions of children believed to be trafficking victims. Neither Thailand nor Sri Lanka has been as aggressive, but they are working



with the hospitals to protect children and they already have stringent adoption policies.

In response to questions about what can be done to help in the affected nations, Ambassador Miller said, "Right now we have contacted [nongovernment organizations], our embassies and foreign governments with steps to take to reduce trafficking opportunities, e.g., registration of children in refugee camps, education of camp workers, warnings to children in camps, increased scrutiny at airports of adults accompanied by children, etc. We are in constant communication with charitable groups and interna-

tional organizations on the ground to help us identify child trafficking situations and, pursuant to President Bush's anti-trafficking in persons initiative, to help us set up or expand anti-child-trafficking programs."

Certainly the threat to children at this critical time should provide added impetus for the affected nations to launch concerted efforts against pedophiles, because any abuse and exploitation against "the most innocent and vulnerable" is, in the words of President Bush, "a special kind of evil."

Janice Shaw Crouse heads the anti-trafficking efforts for Concerned Women for America, a Washington-based organization that promotes pro-life, pro-marriage and pro-family policies.

## No one should warm to idea that SUVs are to blame

BY JAMES K. GLASSMAN

Scraps Howard

The tsunami the day after Christmas has so far killed more than 150,000 in South Asia and East Africa.

It was a terrible tragedy to which the world is responding quickly and generously. But, in some quarters, the tsunami offers an irresistible opportunity for exploitation — and not just by kidnappers of orphans to use as prostitutes.

Unscrupulous activists, who have so far been unable to enact a scheme for mandatory reductions in energy under the Kyoto Protocol on climate change, are telling whoever will: "See, we've got it! It's melting the ice caps and contributing to a rise in sea levels that might have caused or aggravated the South Asia disaster."

In a typical example, the Tribune cited Tony Juniper of Friends of the Earth in Britain saying, "Here again are yet more events in the real world that are consistent with climate change predictions."

Tom Toles, editorial cartoonist of The Washington Post, depicted a couple of Asians on a devastated island, looking at a newspaper with the headline, "CO2 Emissions." One comments, "Does it say what the West will be sending?" The other replies, "A six-foot increase in sea level."

And Voice of America broadcast an interview with Naomi Oreskes of the University of California, who claimed that the tsunami "highlights the need to take action on global warming." All of us are to blame, said Oreskes. "Every single one of us who drives a car, heats our house, flies in an airplane... anybody who basically lives in the modern world is involved in this activity."

Much of this shameful nonsense is simply the result of people being swept away by their other rhetoric — or their desire to raise money for their organizations. But at its root are two profoundly incorrect sentiments:

First is solipsism: We humans are the most powerful force on Earth. How can there be a disaster if we didn't cause it?

Second is narcissism: If we humans didn't mess with Mother Nature, everything would be perfectly peachy.

To the contrary. Research indicates, more and more, that recent warming at the surface of Earth is mainly influenced by cyclical changes at the surface of the sun, where, as far as we can tell, no one is driving an SUV.

As for the tsunami itself. It was started by a huge earthquake, the violent, unpredictable handwork of Nature or, if you prefer, God.

But didn't global warming raise sea levels

to start with, making the tsunami more devastating? No. Sea levels in the northeastern Indian Ocean have been going down, not up.

But assume the worst — a global rise of 4 to 8 inches over the past century, as claimed by a United Nations group. Even an increase of an inch a decade is minimal, compared with a Dec. 26 tide wave estimated at 30 to 40 feet high. And it could have been worse. The wave unleashed by the eruption of [the volcano] Krakatoa [on the Indonesian island of Rakata] in 1883 reached 100 feet or more.

The truth is that terrible, terrible things happen that can't be blamed on George W. Bush or any other human. The only way to mitigate them is through wealth and technological progress. As Glenn Reynolds wrote recently on TechCentralStation.com: "The best protection against catastrophes is a society that is rich enough, and diverse enough, to be well-prepared for all sorts of contingencies. Which means that economic growth,

and the freedom that produces it, may be the best guarantor of safety for all."

A rich society has the dikes to hold back the sea, the advanced construction to keep buildings from collapsing, the communications systems to warn of disasters, the roads to help people escape and the hospitals to treat the injured — not to mention the imagination and flexibility to respond to the unforeseen.

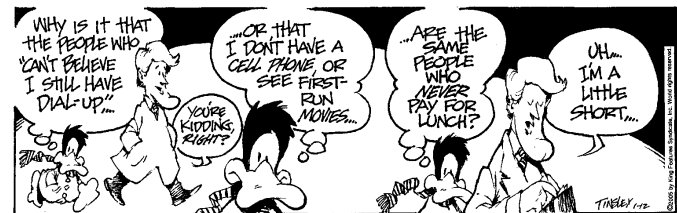
If there is any way at all to reduce the horrifying effects of a natural disaster like the one that just visited the Indian Ocean, it's to reduce poverty in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and the rest of the developing world — an aim that, by the way, would be beneficial even if there's never another tsunami.

The proper project for the next century is fighting poverty and encouraging economic growth — not exploiting fears and imposing a windmill-powered, no-growth society.

James K. Glassman is a fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and host of TechCentralStation.com.

## Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



# Horoscope

Responsibilities are numerous and bulky, but the reward for taking them on is equally substantial.

During the void-of-course moon early today, let your subconscious do the heavy lifting for you. Relax, go slow, and do some daydreaming. You'll pick up the time-saving details you would have missed had you been intent on forward movement.

## TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

**(January 12).** You're fearless — maybe because you sense that positive change is in the air this year. Most exciting is a surprising twist in your love life, occurring around February. If you're looking for new romance, your best chances are while traveling, at sporting events or in places of study, such as schools or libraries. Love signs are Aries and Sagittarius.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Boldly push forward with your plans. Boldly scold at any obstacles in your way. Do not let anything distract you from seeing your project through to completion. For rams, a touch of tunnel vision is a good thing.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** The universe whispers sweet nothings in your ear. Do something kind for yourself, such as getting a massage, facial, manicure or pedicure. You're likely to run into a friend while out and about and get all the latest dish.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You feel more grounded and earth-bound than usual, which could make an air sign like you believe your wings have been clipped. It's really a blessing in disguise, however. Think about what is, not about what could be.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Your soft inner self, the part you normally hide beneath that crab-like coat of armor, needs an extra love. You're feeling vulnerable and may see sights where none exist. Meditate. Get your rest. Rent a hilarious movie.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Others take you seriously and see you in a

new light, with deeper love and more respect. You're able to speak with authority, yet are not afraid to ask for assistance when necessary. Your sense of duty and responsibility prevails.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).**

Your friends are pulling for you, helping you accomplish the basics. But why survive when you can thrive? Feeling overwhelmed is just a sign that you should add more responsibility to your plate. That way, you can prioritize.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).**

An unexpected deviation in your daily routine brings the "wow" factor — anything from an unforeseen opportunity to enjoy a beautiful change of scenery to a chance encounter with the next big love of your life.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** An object of great emotional value to you — something for your home or reminiscent of childhood — was once out of reach but is now easily obtained. Money flows a little smoother, too, so spurge.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** A sibling or neighbor is looking out for you, making you feel nurtured and protected. Pay it forward with random acts of kindness for others. Someone in your social circle would love to hear from you.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Sometimes, you just have to open your mouth and let out a long, loud, full-bodied scream. This is best done alone, in a closed-up car on a sparsely traveled road. You'll rest sweetly tonight.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Flirtation spices up your day. You could meet someone sassy or indulge in harmless games with an attractive co-worker. Keep it light — this one is purely for fun. If you're in a committed relationship, expect extra zing and zip.

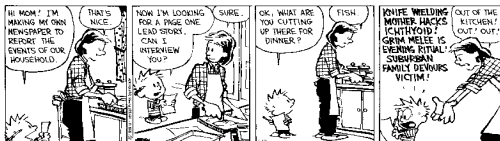
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Taking a practical approach to your love life pays off in surprising ways. Keep your head on straight, and you could suddenly reap rewards through your partner's friends and family. An exciting travel opportunity is possible, too.

Creators Syndicate

## Holiday Mathis



## Calvin and Hobbes



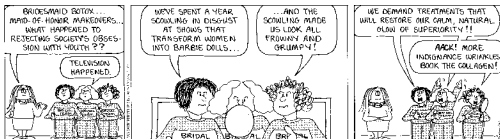
## Jump Start



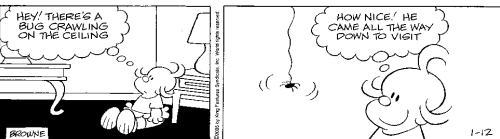
## Zits



## Cathy



## Hi and Lois



## Beetle Bailey



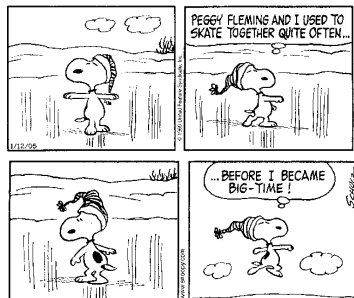
## Red Rover



## Better or Worse

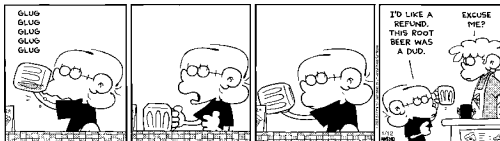


## Peanuts

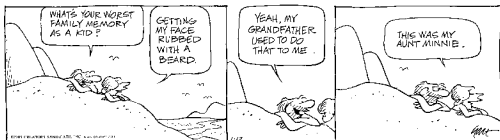




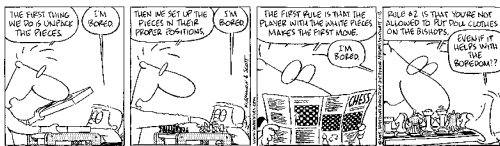
Fotrot



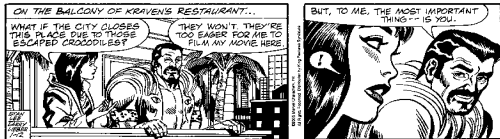
B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



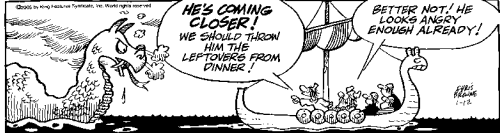
Blondie



Dilbert



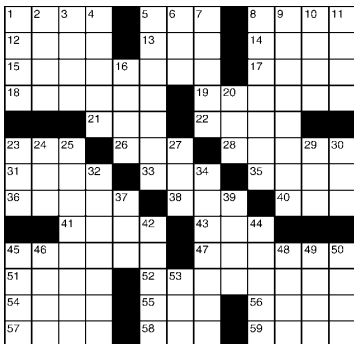
Hagar



Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



### Across

- 1 Wields an axe
- 5 Crony
- 8 Gets ready to rumble
- 12 Rue the run
- 13 George's brother
- 14 Seethe
- 15 3/17 emblem
- 17 Wile E.'s supplier
- 18 Caudron contents
- 19 Exploited
- 21 Seek damages
- 22 Sufficient, old-style
- 23 Manhandle
- 26 X rating?
- 28 Prepare to propose
- 31 Curved molding
- 33 Clark or Rogers
- 35 Ticklish Muppet
- 36 Fortune-tellers read them
- 38 Party bowlful
- 40 Drag
- 41 "Mona —"
- 43 Dawn goddess
- 45 Toy maker
- 47 Andean pack
- 51 "— Rhythm"
- 52 Agenda
- 54 "Smooth Operator" singer
- 55 Honest politician
- 56 Neighborhood
- 57 Stumped (on)
- 58 Dismember

### Down

- 1 Padlocked fastener
- 2 Cave comeback
- 3 Repeat that, please!
- 4 Big trucks
- 5 Trailblazer
- 6 Joan of —
- 7 Delibes opera
- 8 Ear shell
- 9 "Saturday Evening Post" illustrator
- 10 It goes without saying
- 11 Coaster
- 12 Defeat big-time partner
- 23 Grammy category
- 24 Khan title
- 25 Affluent
- 27 Affirmative action
- 29 Down Under bird
- 30 Record
- 32 Sent forth
- 34 Gave way
- 37 Away from NNW
- 39 Lauren trademark
- 42 Sacrifice site
- 44 Dieter's lunch
- 45 Fine spray
- 46 Culture medium
- 48 Boggy terrain
- 49 Cruising
- 50 Musial or Lee
- 53 Kyoto
- 54 cumberbund

### Answer to Previous Puzzle



### I-12 CRYPTOQUIP

J P Y F Y O I S Z B M I S F T  
V S Y I S R V Z F T A Y U V Q  
M U T R R T M Y R Y D O J P T, X T ' M

B S S D U T Y B B Q R X Y U A  
Yesterday's Cryptquip: AFTER THE FATHER LET HIS WEE KIDS HAVE SEVERAL FELT-TIP PENS, HE WAS A MARKED MAN.  
Today's Cryptquip Clue: R equals S

## Past loves may incite jealousy

**Dear Abby:** I have been married almost two years and am having problems with my wife's male friends. She has never had a lot of female friends, and she has had physical relationships with some of her male friends in the past.

We have had several arguments over her relationships with these men and my inability to trust them. I agree with her on that point; however, I would feel awkward if she confided in a male friend if she and I ever got into a tiff.

I am really troubled by this. I believe it opens a window of opportunity for the guy to make advances when she's at a low point. I recently was forwarded an e-mail from one of her male friends that referred to her as "Sweetie" and "Puddin' Pop." Is that right? Should I confront her on this? What should I do?

— **Uneasy in Milwaukee**  
Dear Uneasy: Do not "con-  
front" your wife, but do discuss

*your feelings with her. That you are uneasy about her continuing a relationship with old lovers is understandable. However, to expect a woman who has always related better to men than to women to forgo friendships with men seems unrealistic.*

**Abby** Please talk this out with your wife. She was honest with you about it. Trust her unless she gives you reason not to do so.

**Dear Abby:** I have met the woman of my dreams, the one who was made just for me, and the one I was made for. I am 29 and shy by nature. Before meeting "Jane," I never had a long-term relationship. I never took the chance because I was afraid of getting hurt.

Jane, on the other hand, is the opposite. She has had boyfriends since the age of 13.

me and her exes mean nothing to her now, she still mentions their names in passing every so often. She still has photos of them, old letters, gifts, etc. It's a constant reminder of her past, and of mine, which was alone and depressed.

Just thinking about Jane in another man's arms, and how alone I was, tears me up inside. Why does she have these old things if I am her true love?

— Wants No Reminders

**Dear Wants No Reminders:** Many people keep mementoes because they are souvenirs of happy times or memories. I'm sorry your past was lonely and sad, but for you to expect your girlfriend to come down with amnesia is unrealistic. Since the souvenirs bother you, tell Jane how you feel. If she cares about your feelings, she'll put them away and store them with other dusty memorabilia.

# JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words

STURY

©2005 Tribune Media Services, Inc.  
All Rights Reserved

PFTIR

BRUPES

10

**Ans:**

Yesterday's

Jumbles:

**Answer:**



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

## Don't address adopted child's race

**Dear Annie:** My husband and I have been married eight years and have tried to conceive a child with no success, so we decided to adopt a child of another race. This isn't a problem for my husband, me, my parents or the community in which we live. However, some members of my extended family have shown themselves to be racist.

When the time comes for the child to move into our home, and if there is a baby shower, how do I deal with breaking the news to these relatives that the child is of another race?

**— Lots of Love in Ohio**  
Dear Ohio: You don't have to "break the news." We assume they will figure it out if they see the child, and if they don't see the baby, you can send them a photograph announcing the adoption. You do not need to address the child's race any more than you would make an issue of the color of the baby's eyes. If the relatives make derogatory comments,

## Annie's Mailbox

*remind them that this is your child and insist that they behave themselves.*

**Dear Annie:** I just read the letter from "Need Advice to Give Advice," who asked how to help a friend going through a divorce. Here are some words of wisdom from a divorce lawyer of 21

## Family Circus



**“Sounds time-consuming.”**

**GRAFFITI**

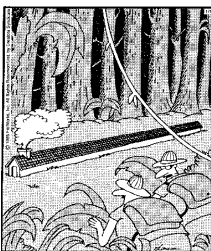
NEVER  
GIVE AN  
EXCUSE  
EVEN YOU  
WOULDN'T  
ACCEPT

## Dennis the Menace



## The Far Side

"SINCE YOU GOT A RAISE, DAD, DOES THAT MEAN MY ALLOWANCE GOES UP, TOO?"



"Python ... and he's home."

## Non Sequitur









# Looking past golf's foremost threesome

BY DOUG FERGUSON  
The Associated Press

KAPALUA, Hawaii — There's more to the PGA Tour than the Big Three.

Vijay Singh, Tiger Woods and Ernie Els all appear to be on top of their game, which put some spice into the start of the new season. All had ample opportunity to win the Mercedes Championships against a winners-only field at Kapalua.

That the winner turned out to be Stuart Appleby was hardly a surprise. Despite opening with a 74, the 33-year-old Aussie played the final 55 holes without a bogey, closed with a 6-under 67 and became the first repeat champion since the season opener moved from California to Maui in 1999.

"I'm not surprised that somebody other than the Big Three came up and made a statement," Stewart Cink said. "Because everybody can play so well out here."

The focus is at the top of the world ranking going into the 2005, and for good reason.

Singh is coming off a nine-win season during which he rose to No. 1 in the world, and he worked harder than ever during his short break. Woods (No. 2) found his swing late in the year and was the only player to post all four rounds in the 60s at Kapalua. Els (No. 3) is determined to overcome his four close calls last year in the majors.

But Woods gave an intriguing forecast on the eve of the Mercedes Championships.

He said his swing was as good as ever, and he was capable of being even better than his astounding run five years ago when he captured four straight majors and won nearly half of his tournaments in 2000.

But getting the same results?

"It depends on how well I play," Woods said. "And how well the rest of the guys play."

Indeed, the tour has never been this loaded with talented players. And it might be tougher than ever to collect nine trophies in a season, as Singh did last year and Woods did in 2000.



Vijay Singh's wild hook off the 13th tee Sunday resulted in triple bogey on the hole and prevented him from being a wire-to-wire winner.



Tiger Woods' putter did not cooperate at Kapalua; he averaged 30.5 putts per round, which ranked 15th in the 31-player field.



Ernie Els was a shot out of the lead hole, a reachable par 5, but lost his tee shot far out of play to the right.



While the top three ranked players in the world flirted with the lead in the final round of the winners-only Mercedes Championships on Sunday, Stuart Appleby (above) won the title for the second straight year.

was trying to become the first wire-to-wire winner at Kapalua. He went 57 holes before making his first bogey of the tournament, and an old flaw showed up at the worst time.

Tied for the lead, Singh hooked his tee shot on No. 13 into the weeds and never had a chance to find it. He wound up with a triple bogey and finished three shots behind the winner.

"I lost the tournament right there," Singh said.

Even more stunning was the tee shot Els hit on the final hole.

He could have reached the par-5 18th with an iron, provided his tee shot was in the wide fairway. The Big Easy lost his drive to the right, and it bounced high off a cart path and out of play, costing him a chance to force a playoff.

Woods never did figure out the greens, missing a dozen putts inside 10 feet over four rounds. Just when it looked like he might make a move, he missed putts of 5 feet and 10 feet down the stretch, and wound up two shots behind.

"I just made nothing," he said. "I don't feel like I got anything out of my rounds."

It all paved the way for Appleby to win for the sixth time on the PGA Tour, then head home to Australia as his wife prepares to deliver their first child on Wednesday.

A year ago, Appleby led by five with five holes to play and had to survive four straight birdies by Singh to win by a shot. He won this time by staging a rally, although he needed plenty of help.

"There was some pretty serious talent around me, and I had to keep my nose to the grindstone," Appleby said.

Even so, he realizes the Big Three are there for a reason.

"The question is, when everyone else plays their best, what's happening? Who are those players? It's obvious the world ranking shows a pretty good gist of what's going on, when Ernie plays his best and what Vijay is like when he plays his best," Appleby said.

"Tiger will play his best again. And so will many other players."

## STRIPES CLASSIFIED

Jobs Offered

630

**ManTech International is recruiting for a Business Development Specialist to join the European business office.**

Position is located in Mannheim Germany. Candidates should have a technical background in Telecommunications or Information Technology, a solid command of the English language, and good computer skills. A current U.S. Security clearance is preferred, but not essential.

Candidates should e-mail their resume and cover letter to:  
Peter.wood@mantech.com

**ManTech**  
International Corporation

Jobs Offered

630

**ManTech**  
Defense Systems Group

Put your military experience to the test supporting US Soldiers and the War On Terror. ManTech Defense Systems Group is looking for qualified personnel to fill the following areas of expertise for the positions listed below:

**Sr. Operations Officer, Readiness Officer Property Book Officer, Senior Systems Analyst Admin Support, Facility Coordinator**

Minimum SECRET clearance required.  
Positions available in Germany, Southwest Asia and Afghanistan.

Apply at [www.ManTech.com](http://www.ManTech.com)  
E-mail resume to: [eric.dunlap@hq.amccur.army.mil](mailto:eric.dunlap@hq.amccur.army.mil)

Standard  
Issue Meets  
A New  
Standard

★ Now Stars and Stripes  
newspaper is also  
★ available electronically. Get  
your copy for FREE at  
★ [estripes.osd.mil](http://estripes.osd.mil)

★ **STARS AND STRIPES**  
Your Homeland Newspaper  
★ **Wherever You Go,  
We Go.**





Green Bay Packers head coach Mike Sherman watches the final seconds of his team's 31-17 loss to the Minnesota Vikings in their NFC wild-card game on Sunday in Green Bay, Wis. Sherman will face many personnel decisions after watching his injury-plagued team give up several big plays against the Vikings.

## Packers likely to look different regardless of Favre's decision

### Beefing up defense sure to be a priority in offseason

BY ARNIE STAPLETON

The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Even if Brett Favre returns for a 15th NFL season, the Green Bay Packers expect a different look next season.

Tight end Bubba Franks, guard Marco Rivera, linebacker Hannibal Naves, and punter Bryan Barker are unrestricted free agents.

Other free agents include Najeh Davenport, tackle Kevin Barry, defensive end Aaron Kampman, linebacker Paris Lenon, backup quarterback Craig Nelis and No. 3 quarterback T.J. O'Sullivan. Guard Mike Wahle has a \$6 million bonus due in March if he's kept around.

And some expect first-year defensive coordinator Bob Slowik to be gone.

The biggest question for the Packers as they head into the offseason after Sunday's 31-17 first-round playoff loss to the Minnesota Vikings, though, is clearly this: Will Favre retire?

"It would be easy to walk off the field after that game and say, 'I've had enough,'" the 31-year-old Favre said. "But I'm going to try to be as fair to myself and to this team as possible. I've had a lot of great games. This obviously was not one of them."

"But I can't base my decision on this game."

Favre lost his father and brother-in-law in the last 13 months, and his wife is battling breast cancer. He plans to get away for a few weeks to clear his head and decide whether or not he's finished with football.

"I really don't need to prove anything else on the field. There's not much more he can go through off the field," kicker Ryan Longwell said. "So, either way, I think he'd be entirely justified with either decision."

The team's season ended just



First and foremost on the minds of the Packers is the future of QB Brett Favre, who is contemplating retirement after throwing four interceptions in the loss to the Vikings, only the second home playoff defeat in franchise history.

like it started: with a stumbling young defense and an injury-slowed offense.

The Packers became just the ninth team in NFL history to reach the postseason after starting 1-4, and they looked primed to go far in the playoffs in the run-of-the-mill NFC, coming in on a conference-best 9-2 run.

But the same problems that haunted them in September doomed them in their loss to Minnesota: poor tackling, bad communication, busted assignments, too takeaways and too many turnovers and penalties.

"It's kind of the story of our season," safety Darren Sharper said. "And it all comes back to bite you in the playoffs."

Favre just couldn't keep up with Minnesota's big-play offense when he lost Pro Bowl receiver Javon Walker to a bruised shin in the second quarter.

He already didn't have Robert Ferguson, who hasn't played since a clothesline hit Dec. 19, so

when the Vikings double-teamed Donald Driver, Favre was reduced to throwing to kick returner Antonio Chatman and Andre Thurman, fresh off the practice squad.

Plus, Favre's offensive line had to be shuffled after left tackle Chad Clifton hurt his ankle in the third quarter.

Coach Mike Sherman has some tough decisions to ponder, too.

Last year, he made defensive coordinator Ed Donatelli the scapegoat for the Packers' fourth- and 26th fiasco at Philadelphia and many fans expect Sherman to fire Slowik.

Sherman, however, didn't provide Slowik with capable players by drafting Ahmad Carroll and Joey Thomas after cornerback Mike McKenzie demanded a trade, which he got in October.

Sharper injured a knee against Dallas in Week 7 and was never himself again. Sumo-sized nose tackle Grady Jackson missed five weeks after dislocating a kneecap and wasn't the same after rushing his return. He said he'll have surgery in two weeks.

The Packers were alternately terrible at defending the pass and the run. One week, their rookies couldn't handle zone defense and the next their veterans got burned in man coverage.

And they sorely missed center Mike Flanagan, who underwent season-ending knee surgery a month into the season. Running backs Ahmad Green and Davenport played hurt.

Although the Packers racked up franchise records in total yards (6,357) and net yards passing (4,449), Favre couldn't make up for a defense that ranked 28th in the league.

The Packers finished 4-5 at Lambeau Field, their first losing home record since 1991. And they fell to 14-2 at home in the playoffs, both losses came in the last three seasons.

## Shanahan believes team is among best

### Despite finish, Broncos coach puts stock in team's NFL ranking on offense, defense

BY EDDIE PELLIS

The Associated Press

DENVER — Mike Shanahan has a much different vision of the Denver Broncos than most people who watched his team this season.

The coach believes the Broncos are close to being among the NFL elite. He believes Jake Plummer is an excellent quarterback. And he doesn't believe his power within the team is as all-encompassing as many people might think.

Add it all up and it's logical not to expect many drastic changes in 2005 — either on the roster or in the hierarchy — from a team that has finished the last two seasons in identical fashion, with 10-7 records and blowout losses to Indianapolis in the first round of the playoffs.

"I think we were there this year," Shanahan said during a 55-minute news conference to recap the season.

"You don't finish fourth on defense and fifth on offense without being pretty good."

That's what they were — pretty good.

But as they showed in the 49-24 loss to the Colts, they're nowhere near as good as the third-seeded team in the AFC.

To many that might indicate retooling is in order. On the day after, though, Shanahan spoke as if it's a matter of just a few tweaks and the return to health of a few key players, like Trevor Pryce.

Pryce bought that line of thinking, too.

"No one should look at this as something you need to tear down and start over again," he said. "We're a good football team. We have a nucleus of guys."

But there were flaws.

Missing Pryce, Denver's defensive line found a consistent pass rush. That didn't help new acquisitions Champ Bailey and John Lynch, who were brought in to make the defense better, but couldn't — and didn't — do it.

Denver finished with 38 sacks and 20 turnovers and, on the whole, simply didn't make big plays.

"We were brought in to bring this team further along than where it was last year," Lynch said.

"I think in terms of making this a better team, I think we have done that. But we didn't move them on further in the playoffs."

Meanwhile, with Plummer running the offense, it was hard to know what to expect. Was he the guy who tied the team record with 27 touchdown passes? Or the guy who threw a league-high 20 interceptions? He was a little of both — great at times, but very inconsistent and not a good decision maker.

Shanahan, however, is in love with his quarterback. He spent a good five minutes praising him Monday. The Broncos must pay him \$6 million on March 1 to keep him under his current con-



Denver Broncos coach Mike Shanahan has only praise for QB Jake Plummer, above, who threw a team-record-tying 27 TDs and a league-high 20 interceptions.

tract, and Shanahan said that was all but a done deal.

"He handled pressure extremely well and that's what quarterbacks are asked to do," Shanahan said. "He had one stretch of four games, there were eight interceptions, where he didn't play well. I'd like to throw those games out, but I blame myself as much as Jake because I put him in situations he shouldn't have been in."

Shanahan denied that wearing the hats as head coach and top personnel guy is too much for him to handle, as many — including a handful of former players — suggested over the season.

"The only way you have a great organization is if you've got great people at every position," Shanahan said. "I'm talking about college personnel, pro personnel, general manager, and without those people you don't succeed. It's been that way since I've been here."

It means that barring a change of heart by owner Pat Bowlen, Shanahan will likely return for his 11th season. If he does, his key decision maker, earning \$5 million a year to lead a team that hasn't won a playoff game since the 1998 Super Bowl.

Among the few agents he'd most like to keep are defensive end Reggie Hayward (10½ sacks), safety Kenen Kennedy and offensive lineman Ben Hamilton.

The salary cap will probably restrict his ability to make more than one or two decent-sized signings from outside and the Bailey-Cluney-Park trade that was supposed to transform Denver into a Super Bowl contender was certainly a rarity, the likes of which almost surely won't be repeated soon.

Shanahan, though, didn't sound like a coach looking for an offseason blockbuster — only a few tweaks and a little more luck on the injury front.

"The bottom line is, you either get it done or you don't," he said. "But for people to say we're a long way from playing at that level, with some of the guys we didn't have and were counting on, they don't know what they're talking about."

# Brees wants comment; Chargers num

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Drew Brees wants a little loyalty and commitment from the San Diego Chargers. "I think the organization knows how I feel. I think I've made that known that I want to be here, and I want a long-term contract," the Pro Bowl quarterback said Monday after the Chargers held their final team meeting. "So really now, it kind of falls in their court. It's up to them to decide what they want to do."

The Chargers lost 20-17 in overtime to the New York Jets in a home wild-card game.

Brees has reached the end of his four-year contract. Many people think the Chargers will put the "franchise" tag on him and give him a \$9 million contract. Then, they can either trade him or let him compete for the starting job with Philip Rivers, who they got in a

**NFL briefs**

draft-day trade to be their quarterback of the future.

The Chargers, who went 12-4, are expected to have \$21 million available under the salary cap.

The Chargers aren't in a hurry to decide Brees' fate.

"I won't talk about our football business," General Manager A.J. Smith said Monday. "I haven't a clue right now. Three weeks from now, we'll huddle up and go over our players and options."

Coach Marty Schottenheimer was given several chances Monday to give Brees a vote of confidence during his final news conference but chose not to. "I don't really want to get into that at this point," Schottenheimer said. "We'll sit down and we'll talk about all of the variables that influence decisions like that. When you're expecting to continue on in the postseason and it ends abruptly, I think it's best that you not try to make any major decisions at that point."

## Marino, Young among 15 Hall of Fame finalists

CANTON, Ohio — Quarterbacks Dan Marino and Steve Young and wide receiver Michael Irvin were among 15 finalists for the Pro Football Hall of Fame announced Tuesday.

Marino, who holds many of the NFL's career passing records, and Young, who led San Francisco to the 1994 NFL title, were among four finalists who made the list in their first year of eligibility.

The others were Irvin, a member of the Dallas teams that won three Super Bowls between 1992 and 1995, and the late Dick Thomas, who played for Kansas City and died in 2000 of injuries suffered in an auto accident.

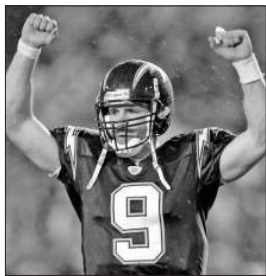
Two of the finalists had already been determined senior nominees Fritz Pollard and Benny Friedman.

Pollard, who played in the 1920s, also was the first black to coach an NFL team. Friedman played for several teams between 1927 and 1934.

The other nominees were linebacker Harry Carson, who played for the New York Giants in the 1970s and 1980s and was a member of the 1986 NFL champions; defensive end Richard Dent, the MVP for the Chicago Bears in the Super Bowl following the 1985 season; defensive end L.C. Greenwood, a member of Pittsburgh's "Steel Curtain" teams of the 1970s; guard Russ Grimm, a member of Washington's famed "Hogs" defensive end; Claude Humphrey, who played for Washington and Philadelphia between 1968-81; guard Bob Kuechenberg, who played on Miami's 1972 undefeated champions, wide receiver Art Monk, a member of three Super Bowl winners with Washington, Roger Wehrli, a cornerback for the St. Louis Cardinals from 1969-82, and the late George Young, who built two Super Bowl winners as general manager of the Giants.

## Browns interview Robiskie; 49ers also searching for new coach

CLEVELAND — Browns interim coach Terry Robiskie met with team owner Randy Lerner, president John Collins and general manager Sam Wyche in New York on Monday to interview for the position that became open when Butch Davis resigned.



Quarterback Drew Brees said he would like to remain with the Chargers, who were noncommittal.

Robiskie has the backing of the players, but Cleveland lost 4-12 this season and struggled on offense with Robiskie as coordinator.

The Browns lost four straight after Robiskie took over for Davis, but he inspired the players to win the final game of the season and snap a nine-game losing streak.

Robiskie is the fourth candidate interviewed by the Browns, joining New England defensive coordinator Romeo Crennel, Philadelphia offensive coordinator Brad Childress and Pittsburgh offensive line coach Russ Grimm.

The other three candidates are still working for their teams in the playoffs, which could delay a decision.

The Browns could find themselves in competition with San Francisco for a coach. The 49ers fired coach Dennis Erickson and dismissed general manager Terry Donahue last week. 49ers owner John York interviewed Crennel in Boston on Saturday, with both sides saying the conversation went well.

The 49ers plan to interview Tennessee Titans offensive coordinator Mike Heimerdinger and Tim Lewis, defensive coordinator for the New York Giants, San Francisco spokesman said Monday.

Browns spokeswoman Lisa Levine said the team also plans interviews Tuesday with former Miami Dolphins interim coach and defensive coordinator Tom Bates and Baltimore Ravens defensive coordinator Mike Nolan.

Bates said Monday he'll seek work elsewhere rather than remain with the team as an assistant to new coach Nick Saban.

## Vikings worried about Williams' ankle

EDEEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — Minnesota Vikings running back Moe Williams might have to miss this weekend's playoff game at Philadelphia with a sprained right ankle.

Randy Moss has the same injury, also aggravated during Sunday's win at Green Bay, but his isn't as serious and the wide receiver is expected to play against the Eagles.

"The only one I'm really concerned about is Moe," coach Mike Tice said.

Williams, who has been a clutch runner and receiver while playing mostly on third downs, would be missed most in pass protection against a Philadelphia defense that blitzes effectively and often.

## Abramham questionable for Steelers game

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — Jets defensive end John Abraham is questionable for Saturday's playoff game against the Pittsburgh Steelers with a sprained right ankle.

Coach Herman Edwards said Abraham is still sore and would make a game-time decision on the status of his Pro Bowl player. Abraham was initially listed as probable to start the week after missing his fifth straight game with the injury. Last week, Abraham said he needed to weigh his options when deciding whether to play because of his impending free agency.

Although Abraham is sore, Edwards expects him to participate when the team returns to practice Wednesday.

## Colts uncertain about Mathis' availability

INDIANAPOLIS — Indianapolis Colts defensive end Robert Mathis could miss Sunday's playoff game against New England with a sprained knee.

Mathis had a career-high 10½ sacks this season, second on the Colts to Dwight Freeney, who led the NFL with 16.

# Virginia Tech Miller to enter NFL draft

The Associated Press

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — All-American Heath Miller of Virginia Tech, who rewrote the ACC record book for tight ends in only three years, is giving up his final season of eligibility to enter the NFL draft.

"This has been a very difficult decision for me," Miller said in a statement Monday. "However, I believe I am prepared as a player and as a person to enter the 2005 NFL Draft."

Temple quarterback Walter Washington, Utah receiver Steve Savoy and Mississippi center Chris Spencer also will leave school early to enter the NFL draft.

Vanderbilt quarterback Jay Cutler said he will return for his senior season.

The 6-foot-5, 255-pound Miller led the Atlantic Coast Conference in receptions by a tight end in each of his three seasons, highlighted by 70 catches for 835 yards and six touchdowns in 2003. This season, he had 41 catches for 541 yards and five touchdowns.

For his career, Miller set ACC records for tight ends with 144 receptions, 1,703 receiving yards and 20 touchdowns.

Washington, a second-team All-Big East selection, ran for 15 touchdowns during his junior season and led the conference in total offense with 3,096 yards. He finished fourth on Temple's career list in total yards (4,940), ninth in yards passing (3,472) and 12th in rushing (1,440).

Savoy, the second-leading receiver in Utah's 12-0 season, is skipping his final two seasons, according to The Salt Lake Tribune. "I'm going," Savoy told the newspaper.

Savoy's decision isn't much of a surprise. He said before the 35-7 win over Pittsburgh in the Fiesta Bowl that he was considering the move and would decide after the season. Savoy said if junior quarterback Alex Smith stayed, he might as well.

# Report: Syracuse to hire former NFL coordinator

By JOHN KEKIS

The Associated Press

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Texas co-defensive coordinator Greg Robinson will be named the new coach at Syracuse, a University of Texas source told The Associated Press.

Syracuse athletic director Daryl Gross scheduled a news conference for Tuesday afternoon to make the announcement.

The source, who asked to remain anonymous, said Robinson was en route from Austin, Texas, to Syracuse for the announcement. The move was first reported Monday by The Dallas Morning News.

Robinson, 33, spent 14 seasons in the NFL, including stints as defensive coordinator with Kansas City and Denver. He succeeds Paul Pasqualoni, who was fired

Smith announced last week that he was entering the April draft.

Savoy had 67 catches for 961 yards and 11 touchdowns as a sophomore. He is expected to enter the draft because he has been out of high school for three years.

Spencer, a 6-foot-4, 310-pound junior, was a two-year starter and an honorable mention selection to the Associated Press All-SEC team. He said he was projected as a second-round pick in the draft.

"This was a tough decision, but one I felt I needed to make after getting the facts from the NFL," Spencer said. "I'll miss my teammates, but Ole Miss will always be a part of me."

Cutler was 147-20-241 for 1,844 yards and 10 touchdowns with five interceptions for Vanderbilt last season. He also ran 109 times for 349 yards and six TDs.

"I want to be here another year," he said. "I love my teammates dearly. There was never any changing. There just wasn't enough to convince me to leave."

Cutler was expected to make a quick decision after the Commodores' 2-9 season. He received what he called a positive evaluation from the NFL on where he might be drafted but wouldn't discuss details.

Cutler was among the Commodores who attended the funeral for running back Kwame Doster in Tampa, Fla., on Dec. 31.

"His death, it brought us even closer and made some of us realize how important this team is and how much we really put into this stuff," Cutler said.

Cutler was under consideration entering the draft by the California quarterback Aaron Rodgers, Louisville running back Eric Shelton, the Florida duo of running back Claitrick Pison and receiver Channing Crowder, and Georgia safety Thomas Davis.

Underclassmen have until Jan. 15 to declare for the draft and have until Jan. 19 to withdraw their names.

Dec. 29, eight days after Syracuse lost to Georgia Tech 51-14 in the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl.

Pasqualoni was 107-59-14 and 6-3 in bowl games at Syracuse, but the Orange struggled to break even the past two years after going 10-3 and finishing 14th in the nation in 2001.

After becoming athletic director in December, Gross said he would seek a defensive-minded coach, and Robinson made a big impact in his one year at Texas, which finished 11-1 and beat Michigan in the Rose Bowl.

During the regular season, the Longhorns allowed 102 fewer points than they gave up in 12 games. In season, they had a third-quarter touchdown, and held opponents to just a 27 percent conversion rate on third down.

By Sports Writer Jim Vertuno in Austin, Texas, contributed to this report.





# Spurs, Suns set pace for rest of the NBA

BY MARK HEISLER

Los Angeles Times

Let's see, Ron Artest went into the crowd and then there was that thing between Kobe Bryant and Karl Malone and, of course, it took a month to get ready for the Christmas Day game.

Nevertheless, I have a nagging feeling there's something I haven't covered. ...

Well, there is the 2004-05 season. For you diehards who follow basketball, here's how everyone is doing:

**1. SAN ANTONIO** — After bagging Tony Parker and Manu Ginobili, R.C. Buford, the game's most underrated general manager got another gem, Beno Udrih, from their Foreign Legion backcourt, Devin Brown and Brent Barry, they can score now too.

**2. PHOENIX** — Mike D'Antoni is the first coach to go small, athletic and exciting and turn it around, so root for this team. Everyone thought Steve Nash would take them from 29 wins to maybe 35 or 40, but they're on pace for 72. Amare Stoudemire has taken it to another level.

**3. MIAMI** — Dwyane Wade isn't as good as Bryant, but he's more efficient, he's not injured and he's perfect for Shaquille O'Neal. The Heat were 5-3 when coach Stan Van Gundy put in

three-point ace Damon Jones and moved Eddie Jones to forward, and 22-5 since. Shaq is finally healthy, has turned it up since Jan. 1 but can take his usual nap, and they'd still win the East.

**4. SEATTLE** — They don't belong this high, but someone has to go here. Disaster loomed with Ray Allen and coach Nate McMillan unsigned, but squat power forwards Danny Fortson and Reggie Evans took over inside so 6-10 Rashard Lewis and 6-10 Vladimir Radmanovic could stay outside. The old rule — live by the three, die by the three — is kicking in. They're 6-5 since their 17-3 start.

**5. SACRAMENTO** — Bobby Jackson's out until the playoffs and their old depth is a memory. However, Chris Webber, all but written off after limping back last season, has learned how to play on the ground and is better than ever.

**6. DALLAS** — Don Nelson's Fun Bunch still gets 101 a game without Nash even if Mark Cuban is surprised to learn point guard is a problem. With still-improving Dirk Nowitzki, revived Jerry Stackhouse, Michael Finley, Jason Terry and Josh Howard, firepower isn't.

**7. CLEVELAND** — LeBron James, who just turned 20, is on MVP-consideration pace (25 points, 7.2 assists, 7.0 rebounds), and his head still looks as if it's on straight. "Last year, he couldn't shoot," says a coach. "Now he's an unbelievable shooter. He must have really done a lot of work. If you had to choose one player, it would be him, just on total package, and second would be Wade." The biggest test is their record (20-9 after an 0-3 start), because after Jeff McInnis, Drew Gooden and Zydrunas Ilgauskas, there's nothing else.

**8. DETROIT** — They should be higher, but I don't think Larry Brown is planning on settling in Michigan.

**9. INDIANA** — They were the real deal until Artest lost it. On the bright side, Jamal Tinsley has become a real point guard, and there's always next season.

**10. MINNESOTA** — Kevin Garfield's leadership used to suffice, but Sam Cassell and Latrell Sprewell are putting about contracts, Troy Hudson about playing time and they're always upset that Wally Szczerbiak shoots so much. Coach Flip Saunders, highly rated by insiders, is taking heat, but this isn't his fault.

**11. WASHINGTON** — Another surprising wave in the offensive revolution. Antwan Jamison finally has the right situation, surrounded by good young players (Gilbert Arenas, Larry Hughes, Jarvis Hayes, Jared Jeffries). Jamison, Arenas and Hughes are all averaging 20. The last time that happened was in 1988, when Dale Ellis, Xavier McDaniel and Tom Chambers did it in Seattle.

**12. ORLANDO** — Johnny Davis continues the Doc Rivers tradition of not guarding anyone, but with Steve Francis, Grant Hill, and Dwight Howard, the Magic score 102 points a game. Francis now refers to himself in the third person by his new nickname "Steve-O" and still won't give up the ball. Howard looks to be a monster, but it's way early.

**13. MEMPHIS** — Jerry West does it yet again. Mike Fratello is 13-7 since taking over as coach. With his minutes going up, Pau Gasol is averaging 20 points since Fratello's arrival.

**14. LOS ANGELES LAKERS** — Actually, I don't remember people writing them off this is where everyone picked them.

The more Bryant yearns to get them over the top, the more he keeps the ball and the harder he makes the game. The really bad news is, even if he gets it exactly right and Lamar Odom goes back to what he was last season, they're not in the top four in the West. If the Timberwolves straighten themselves out or get Jason Kidd and the Kings get Jackson back, it's not particularly close.

**15. HOUSTON** — They were old, slow and thin before trading two players for David Wesley. Yao Ming isn't the next Shaq, but

he and Tracy McGrady are still good. Jeff Van Gundy knows what he's doing, even if he's so gloomy that you don't trust him near sharp objects. Since starting 6-11, they're 10-6.

**16. PHILADELPHIA** — Another stunner: Allen Iverson's assists and shooting percentage are at seven-year highs. Coach Jim O'Brien went up, putting 7-0 Samuel Dalembert back in, even if he doesn't know what "rotate" means, and let Kenny Thomas out of the doghouse. With super-athlete Andre Iguodala and three-point ace Kyle Korver, they're moving (9-5 after a 6-12 start).

**17. LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS** — This is remarkable since the only guards left from the opening-night roster are Rick Brunson and Quinton Ross. Two words: Michael Redd.

**18. PORTLAND** — Shareef Abdur-Rahim learned to play with Zach Randolph, but Derek Anderson is shooting 41 percent. Damon Stoudamire 35 percent and Nick Van Exel 36 percent. Abdur-Rahim's contract is expiring, making him attractive, and Van Exel is up in 2006, so they have moves.

**19. DENVER** — Carmelo Anthony's head is spinning like the little girl's in "The Exorcist." Andre Miller isn't a fastbreak guard and losing shooter Voshon Lenard hurt. Jeff Bodelier was doomed — ask Anthony about that — and Michael Cooper isn't guaranteed anything. On the plus side, 6-10, 260-pound physical prodigy Nene may finally be happening.

**20. NEW YORK** — Stephen Marbury has gone back to scoring, and it is only the East. Before Jamal Crawford went out, he and Marbury were so clueless together, it was entertaining.

**21. CHICAGO** — At 2-13, they were doing their war dance, getting ready to trade Eddy Curry and/or Tyson Chandler when they noticed they were playing pretty well. Ben Gordon is averaging 17 points, shooting 50 percent from the field and 53 percent from three-point attempts since Thanksgiving. If they hadn't traded Jalen Rose, they'd make the playoffs standing on their heads. They've just gone 10-5.

**22. NEW JERSEY** — If this wasn't such a lame-duck operation, you'd like Kidd, Vince Carter and Richard Jefferson. The question is do they trade Kidd now, in the summer or persuade him to stay?

**23. BOSTON** — Rivers is reining in Paul Pierce, no easy task after years of doing whatever he wanted. Rookies Al Jefferson and Tony Allen have promise, but any future is a ways off.

**24. UTAH** — Nice rebuilding program with Carlos Boozer averaging 20-10. Losing Andre Kirilenko, who averaged an amazing 4.4 blocks, was devastating. Over two seasons they're 50-42 with him, 3-20 without.



San Antonio Spurs' Tim Duncan (21) drives to the basket over Denver Nuggets defender Nene (31) as Kenyon Martin (6) and Marcus Camby (23) watch.

**25. GOLDEN STATE** — The major issue is still management. New general manager Chris Mullin has some promising players in season of a dream but needs a star. Former GM Gary St. Jean's old nucleus of Jamison, Hughes and Arenas is happening in Washington.

**26. CHARLOTTE** — Expectations were 10 to 15 wins but they're on pace for 20 with Emeka Okafor averaging 17-11 since Thanksgiving. With four players signed beyond this season, Coach/GM Bernie Bickerstaff can wheel and deal.

**27. MILWAUKEE** — This is what everyone expected last season. Can't defend big guys, and there are more in the East now. After Jermaine O'Neal hit them for 55 in 36 minutes, Reggie Miller said, "That was the easiest 55 I ever saw."

**28. TORONTO** — Had to move Carter, who'd quit, but despite what Branch Rickey said, you don't always gain by subtraction.

**29. NEW ORLEANS** — Everything that could go wrong did and with Jamal Mashburn gone and Baron Davis eyeing the door, that was a lot. They're reconciled to moving Davis, with General Manager Allan Bristow noting, "It's our job to talk."

**30. ATLANTA** — Should change the name to Atlantis. They disappeared a few years back and haven't been seen since. Now they have Al Harrington, Antawn Walker and his expiring contract, rookies Josh Childress and Josh Smith, and \$25 million worth of cap room in summer.



Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James (23) loses control of the ball as Atlanta Hawks' Al Harrington (3) watches in the third quarter Jan. 5. While James (25 points per game) and his teammates are off to a strong start this season, the Hawks are mired in mediocrity

# Johnson's opening pitch: an apology

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Randy Johnson's first pitch in pinstripes was an apology.

The Big Unit opened Tuesday's news conference introducing him as a member of the New York Yankees by talking about his confrontation on a Manhattan sidewalk with a television cameraman on the way to his physical for the team the day before.

"I'd first like to once again reiterate: The situation yesterday, it was unprofessional," Johnson said, "and obviously I feel very foolish today at such a great moment of my career that I would have to stand before you and apologize for my actions. Hopefully it's water under the bridge."

Johnson added that yesterday, my actions were uncalculated for, I'm sorry. I hope I can move on and can get another chance to prove that I'm worth coming here.

In a deal in the works for more than a month and agreed to Dec. 30, the Yankees sent pitchers Javier Vazquez and Brad Halsey, catcher Dioner Navarro and \$9 million to the Arizona Diamondbacks for Johnson.

The five-time Cy Young Award winner got a \$32 million, two-year contract extension that runs through 2007.

The Yankees revamped their rotation in the offseason, also adding pitchers Carl Pavano and Jarret Wright.

"Obviously, the acquisition of Randy Johnson is, in more ways than one, a huge move for our pitching staff," Yankees manager Joe Torre said in a statement released before the news conference.

His accomplishments speak for themselves, but he will also make everyone around him much

better," Vazquez passed his physical with the Diamondbacks on Monday night. Navarro had to take two physicals Monday — one for Arizona and one for Los Angeles, which is acquiring him as part of a separate deal with the Dodgers, receiving four prospects from the Diamondbacks for outfielder Shawn Green and \$10 million. Green and Arizona reached an agreement in principle Sunday on a \$32 million, three-year contract, which allows that trade to be finalized.

Green also passed his physical with the Arizona, which introduced him in a news conference in Phoenix on Tuesday.

The deal bringing Johnson to New York fell through in several runs. Turning to free agency on Tuesday, Yankees President Randy Levine said, "We've been trying to bring you here for a long, long time."

Johnson got a taste Monday of how much attention star ballplayers can attract in New York. Walking along a Manhattan avenue, he put his long right arm up to block a camera from WGBH-TV after he left his Manhattan hotel.

Johnson, who was accompanied by Yankees director of team security Jerry Lavaroni, made contact with the station's station spokeswoman Audrey Pass said.

"Get out of my face, that's all I ask," Johnson said, according to a video on WGBH-TV after he was posted on the station's Web site.

"No cameras," Lavaroni said. "Don't get in my face," Johnson then said. "I don't care who you are, get out of my face."

"I'm just taking a picture," said the cameraman, identified by the



In this image released by WGBH-TV, Randy Johnson puts his hand up to block a camera from WGBH-TV after he left his Manhattan hotel on the way to a physical for the New York Yankees on Monday in New York.

station as Vinny Everett.

Responded Johnson: "Don't get in my face, and don't talk back to me, all right."

## Indians, Juan Gonzalez closing in on deal

CLEVELAND — Free agent outfielder Juan Gonzalez, whose production has plummeted in recent years because of injuries, is close to signing a minor league contract with the Cleveland Indians.

If the two-time American League MVP makes the Indians' 25-man roster in spring training, he would get \$600,000 and would have a chance to earn another \$1.65 million in bonuses based on plate appearances and \$300,000 based on time on the active roster.

"We have no deal yet, but remain hopeful that we can get something done soon," Indians General Manager Mark Shapiro said Monday night.

Once one of baseball's most feared right-handed power hitters, the 35-year-old Gonzalez has been limited to just 185 games the past three seasons with Texas and Kansas City because of a variety of injuries.

and Hermann Maier (551), the overall defending champion. The U.S. skier leads the giant slalom standings with 340 points, followed by Canadian Thomas Grandi (302) and Blandone (266).

## Courier, Noah, Novotna, Buchholz elected to tennis hall

NEWPORT, R.I. — Major champions Jim Courier, Yannick Noah and Jana Novotna were elected to the International Tennis Hall of Fame, along with tour administrator Butch Buchholz.

The 2005 class was announced Tuesday by hall president Tony Trabert.

Courier, 34, won the French Open in 1991-92 and the Australian Open in 1992-93, spent 58 weeks ranked No. 1, and helped the United States win the Davis Cup in 1992 and 1995.

Noah, 44, won the 1983 French Open, the first Frenchman to succeed at Roland Garros in 37 years. Ranked as high as No. 3, he finished with 23 titles in singles and 16 in doubles, including the 1984 French Open with Henri Leconte.

Novotna, 36, was the Wimbledon singles champion in 1998 and the runner-up in 1993 and 1997.

# Betrans we come to 'the new Mets'

## All-Star CF finalizes \$119M deal, joins RHP Martinez in New York

By Hal Brock

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Carlos Beltran joined what he called "the new Mets" on Tuesday, finalizing his \$119 million, seven-year contract with New York.

Beltran said he was impressed that Mets owner Fred Wilpon and general manager Omar Minaya flew down to visit him in his native Puerto Rico.

"I feel proud to be part of a new family: the New York Mets. The new Mets," Beltran said at a news conference at Shea Stadium.

"I call it the new Mets because this organization is going to a new direction, the right direction, the direction of winning."

In introducing his second big offseason signing, Minaya called Beltran "one of the best all-around players in baseball."

"When we started putting our team together ... I don't think we were going to be able to sign a Carlos Beltran on top of that, after signing a great pitcher like Pedro Martinez."

Answering questions in English and Spanish, Beltran said the Mets made him feel wanted.

Beltran is the most talented player who is just coming into the prime of his career," Minaya said. "Carlos has a rare blend of speed, power, defense and the ability to make those around him better. Today is a very exciting day in the history of the franchise."

Beltran's deal calls for an \$11 million signing bonus — \$7 million this year and \$2 million in each of the following two seasons. He gets a \$10 million salary this year, \$12 million in each of the following two seasons and \$18.5 million in each of the final four years of the deal. A total of \$20 million in the contract will be deferred.

## Knicks: So far, big N.Y. payroll hasn't meant big production

KNICKS, FROM BACK PAGE

The timing couldn't be better with the Knicks' lead over their underdog rival, the Atlanta Hawks, pursuers having shrunk to one game, but only if they're able to capitalize on the stretch of winnable games and raise the bar of expectations to a level more befitting the team's payroll.

Stephon Marbury, with a salary of \$14.6 million, still carries the tag of never having gotten out of the first round of the playoffs. Tim Thomas, with a salary of \$12.9 million, is grabbing just 3.5 rebounds and handing out 1.1 assists per game.

Gregory, making \$6 million, has yet to play for an NBA team that's won more than 30 games. Hardaway, earning \$14.6 million,

While Beltran became the 10th player in baseball history worth \$100 million or more, Minaya spoke with Carlos Delgado's agent, David Sloane, about possibly meeting with the first baseman this week in Puerto Rico.

"We're still working on it," Sloane said.

It's possible the Mets also might revive talks to acquire Sammy Sosa from the Chicago Cubs.

At the Mets' minicamp in Port St. Lucie, Fla., manager Willie Randolph was excited about having Beltran in his lineup.

"Just to think about having someone of that caliber on your ballclub is awesome," Randolph said.

Beltran will join a retooled roster that includes three-time Cy Young Award winner Martinez.

"Sometimes there's the old 'rebuilding,' but I think it's tough to rebuild in this type of market," Randolph said. "I assumed we would add some veterans and free agents, but so far it's been a lot more than I expected. I think that ownership has made a serious effort to get back to winning ways and it's exciting to be part of that."

Randolph watched Beltran's outstanding postseason with the Cardinals, when he hit .455 with eight homers and 14 RBIs.

"He was phenomenal," Randolph said. "Timing is very important in this game. I think we have for him what he did was always there. It says a lot about him, that he was able to raise his play at the right time."

In other news Monday, the Mets finalized a \$900,000, one-year contract with infielder Miguel Cairo and agreed to a \$2.1 million, one-year deal with pitcher Victor Zambrano, their last remaining player eligible for salary arbitration.

# Judge refuses to dismiss Neuheisel suit

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — A judge refused to dismiss a suit filed by former Washington football coach Rick Neuheisel against the university and said he will rule Friday on a similar dismissal motion by the NCAA.

The lawsuit, which seeks unspecified damages for Neuheisel's dismissal in June 2003 after he was accused of dishonesty and violation of NCAA gambling rules, is scheduled to go to trial Jan. 24.

A motion by the university to dismiss the wrongful termination lawsuit was rejected Monday by King County Superior Court Judge Michael S. Ocanan.

"We're pleased it's going to trial against the university," said Neuheisel's lawyer, Robert M. Sulkin. "I think Rick is looking forward to giving his side of the story."

Neuheisel was fired with five years remaining on a six-year contract that paid about \$1.2 million a year. Also at issue is a \$1.5 million pay-recapture clause in the contract, which stipulated it would be forgiven if he stayed at Washington through Jan. 1, 2008.

## Sports briefs

In four seasons with the Huskies, Neuheisel compiled a 33-16 record, including a Rose Bowl victory in 2001 and No. 3 national ranking.

He was fired in June 2003 by then-athletic director Barbara Hedges, who said he lied to her when he denied interviewing for a job with the San Francisco 49ers, then lied again the same day when he insisted he had never participated in gambling pools, although he had won \$11,219 in the previous two NCAA men's basketball tournaments.

## Miller second in men's GS

ADELBODEN, Switzerland — Bode Miller, who is trying to become the first American to win the overall title since Phil Mahre in 1983, took over the top spot in the giant slalom standings by finishing runner-up Tuesday to Italy's Maximilian Bärle.

Miller leads the overall standings with 988 points, followed by Austrians Benjamin Raich (690)



## SPORTS

Chargers QB Brees would like loyalty,  
long-term contract from team,  
Page 32

## The best money can buy?

Knicks getting only marginal return on NBA's highest payroll

BY CHRIS SHERIDAN  
The Associated Press

**P**GREENBURGH, N.Y. — It's time for the New York Knicks to come up with a new marketing slogan.

They can borrow the phrase coach Lenny Wilkens uttered Monday, which happened to be the exact same quote team president Isiah Thomas came up with the night before: "We're not fooling ourselves."

By declaring the roster he assembled a .500 outfit, Thomas seemed to be making a concerted effort to lower expectations for the league's highest-paid team as he moves into his second year at the helm.

The Knicks' record (17-17) says they're a .500 team, and they freely admit that the prospect of finishing in first place with a 41-41 record doesn't sound all that bad.

"Let's get everybody healthy and see," Wilkens said after practice Monday. "Are we just .500, or what? Maybe we're worse."

After a whirlwind 12½ months since Thomas replaced Scott Layden, the Knicks are coming to grips with the reality of who they are despite a league-high payroll of \$103 million and a star player who has proclaimed himself the NBA's best point guard — a declaration that was immediately followed by a four-game losing streak.

"I don't think we're a great team right now, I never said so," Wilkens said. "Certainly we can have a say in a lot of things, but I don't think we've found out who we are. We haven't had everybody here to do that yet. When we do, we'll get a better handle, but if you look at our club now, yeah, we're not more than (.500)."

**"My thing is, you've got to ask yourself if you're playing to win a championship, or are you playing to make money. I know I'm playing for the championship, and I think we all have to ask ourselves that as individuals."**

Stephon Marbury  
Knicks point guard

New York Knicks' Stephon Marbury (3) recently proclaimed himself the best point guard in the NBA — and the team promptly went on a four-game losing streak. Despite a league-high \$103 million payroll, the Knicks are 17-17 but leading the underachieving Atlantic Division.

The feeling around the locker room seemed much more positive just a couple weeks ago, before Jamal Crawford went down with a toe injury expected to keep him sidelined for at least two more weeks.

New York strung together consecutive victories against Charlotte, Orlando and Minnesota to move three games over .500 at

16-13, but followed with a stretch of four consecutive lopsided losses to New Jersey, Sacramento, Miami and Cleveland.

"I thought that the Cleveland game, the dam broke. But tonight they put it back together again and we move forward," Thomas said after New York ended its skid with a 113-105 victory over Portland.

"Right now, [compared to] where we were last year and where we're trying to get to, progress here is being made."

Sunday night's victory quieted the speculation over Wilkens' job security, but Thomas' statements can be taken to mean that someone will take a fall if the Knicks dip too far below their new break-even barometer.

Injuries to Crawford, Penny Hardaway, Michael Sweetney and Tim Thomas have taken away much of the Knicks' depth, although they are entering a stretch of schedule in which none of their next six opponents — beginning with Tuesday night's game against the 3-29 New Orleans Hornets — has a winning record.



Knicks coach Lenny Wilkens, above left, appears to have job security right now, but with hands-on team president Isiah Thomas watching, that situation could change if the Knicks don't rise above their .500 record.

SEE KNICKS ON PAGE 35

**Lakers lean on players other than Bryant to complete comeback over Garnett, Timberwolves**

Page 33



**Mets finalize contract with Beltran, introduce latest addition to retooled roster**

Page 35

